FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

Neither side has yet gained full control and the conflict is spreading to all parts of the country, according to Arab sources cited by Riyadh radio 23 January. The radio's sources spoke of fierce fighting in Khurmaksar the previous day. Nevertheless, Aden radio announced that Aden international airport was opened to air traffic 23 January. The radio had earlier broadcast details of "confessions" by Hadi Ahmad Nasir, one of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's supporters who surrendered after carrying out "barbaric acts." Hadi Ahmad Nasir said he had been "misled" by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who "fully shoulders the responsibility" for the destruction in the PDRY, the radio reported. As for the composition of the YSP leadership group opposed to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the radio noted activities by Salih Munassar al-Siyayli and Salim Salih Muhammad, and also cited a press editorial which maintained that the Political Bureau members who were subjected to the "physical liquidation attempt" are still alive. DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah, however, told the UAE's *AL-KHALIJ that some YSP Political Bureau members were* killed and others were wounded during the events of 13 January. Sources in Moscow cited by *AL-KHALIJ* also revealed that the warring sides are trying to negotiate under the aegis of a four-member committee.

In another development, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir informed the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* that the PLO has abandoned its efforts to halt the fighting, WAKH reported. Al-Wazir explained that this decision resulted from opposition to PLO interference by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's opponents, who felt they were gaining the upper hand, and by the PDRY premier and foreign minister, who support the anti-'Ali Nasir group. Meanwhile, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed Libya's support for 'Ali Nasir's "legitimate leadership" during a telephone conversation with the YAR president reported by SANAA radio.

Radio broadcasts by 'Ali Nasir's side have not been monitored, despite Radio Monte Carlo's report that his faction has a radio which is broadcasting on an official frequency that has not been used for many years.

Libya

Libya had "nothing whatever" to do with the Vienna and Rome airport incidents, Col al-Qadhdhafi said in an interview with Vienna's *KURIER*. He also said there are no Palestinian training camps in Libya. Meanwhile, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said in a news conference broadcast by Tripoli television that "tens of thousands" of Arab, African, and Muslim youths are awaiting orders to come to Libya to be trained for "suicidal fedayeen operations." Maj Jallud charged that the U.S. "preoccupation" is to "liquidate Al-Qadhdhafi physically through an act of terrorism." Meanwhile, the "foreign colonies" of Banghazi decided "not to transfer outside Libya their 1-month salaries" in response to the U.S. freeze of Libyan assets, JANA reported.

Lebanon

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam affirmed Syria's support for implementing the tripartite agreement during a 23 January meeting with Elie Hubayqah, Damascus radio reported. The radio described Hubayqah by his former title, chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee. Beirut radio said Hubayqah is expected to meet with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, and the radio also cited a press report that Hubayqah will establish a headquarters in Zahlah. Earlier, in a speech broadcast by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Junblatt warned that hopes for peace have been dashed and he spoke of a return to the "language of the gun."

Israel

In a speech in London broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres called on "responsible" Palestinian leaders, "especially on the West Bank and Gaza," to join with Jordan's King Husayn "in the journey" to the negotiating table with Israel. He proposed that a "Preliminary meeting of small working teams" be held to work out the technical details of the negotiations, Jerusalem television added. Peres also met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who accepted his invitation to visit Israel, the radio later reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces repelled an Iranian attack in the central sector, killing 30 Iranian troops, according to an Iraqi military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. INA reported that Iraqi planes attacked another large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi called the drop in North Sea oil prices a "conspiracy of global arrogance," Tehran radio reported. Meanwhile, President 'Ali Khamene'i returned from his tour of Pakistan and the African Frontline States, according to the radio, which earlier reported that Khamene'i's refusal to attend a Zimbabwe banquet "due to antireligious and anti-Islamic programs" was praised in a Council of Guardians session.

Kuwait

A National Assembly committee approved a proposal to establish a military force for the protection of oil installations, KUNA reported.

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Babrak Karmal Interviewed by Egyptian Paper

PM220945 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Jan 86 pp 6, 7, 10

[Interview with Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, by Husayn 'Abd al-Raziq and Aminah al-Naqqash at the People's Palace in Kabul; date not specified]

[Excerpt] Babrak Karmal received us in his office with open arms saying: You are welcome in our revolutionary country, your sisterly country. I have read a lot about you as comrades of the road and friends; I have read about your struggle, your revolution, and your life. What is life? It is work and struggle for the happiness and freedom of all working people. I have also read the statement your newspaper issued on 10 January 1980 in which you declared your rejection of imperialism's aggressive military intervention in Afghanistan's affairs and called for a halt to the aggression and for the withdrawal of Soviet forces.

The Egyptian people are our fraternal people. This goes back deep into history — culturally, religiously, and even linguistically. The Arab language is the language of Muslims. There are many Arabic words in our language.

I beg you to feel that you are really in your country. Do not hesitate to ask any question you wish and I promise to answer it frankly as a friend. We then began the dialogue with him:

Question: Six years ago, on 27 December 1979, the Command Council of the April 1978 Revolution adopted a decision dismissing Hafizullah Amin, chairman of the council, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and chairman of the Council of Ministers, along with some of his aides and it chose you to assume all these posts and responsibilities. What has become known as the second stage of the April Revolution begun then? What were the conditions and implications that led to the issuing of those decisions?

Answer: A few weeks after the triumph of the 27 April 1978 Revolution, Afghanistan was the target of expanding external aggression and conspiracy. Training camps were set up for counterrevolutionary elements in neighboring countries, particularly in Pakistan and Iran. These elements were trained, organized, and provided with arms in these camps, all under the supervision of Western intelligence. They were then dispatched to our country's open borders, entering it via the shepherds' traditional tracks in order to spread terror and destruction in Afghanistan.

At the orders of Washington's Administration, the reactionary and imperialist forces adopted a hostile strategy against the revolution right from the beginning. Moreover, they tried to supply the counterrevolutionary forces with arms, to provide them with training and funds, and to send them into the country in order to benefit from their agents and spies inside the revolutionary movement in our country.

It must be admitted that our party's leadership made a great mistake when it allowed the infiltration of agents into the party and gave them power. Hafizullah Amin and his gang infiltrated our party 1 year after it was established. U.S. imperialism exploited him against the revolutionary movement during different periods of time and used him for 10 years in creating divisions in the party ranks. After the revolution, Hafizullah Amin succeeded in staging a palace coup inside the regime and, under a false revolutionary guise, committed the most abominable crimes in the name of defending the revolution and the people, while he was, in fact, against the progressive and revolutionary ideas and against the masses. Hafizullah Amin was seeking to divert the revolution from its original path, distort its public image, and isolate it from the masses. He did not even hesitate to murder Nur Mohammad Taraki despite the fact that he was his student and like his son. Amin's actions led the majority of the people to turn against the party, the revolution, and against progress in the sense proposed by Amin.

The attacks and conspiracies organized by the United States, imperialism in general, reaction from abroad through the counterrevolutionary forces, Amin's deviation of the revolution, and U.S. intelligence activity inside the country led to a total deterioration of the situation which not only threatened the revolution and the people but also threatened the division and partitioning of Afghanistan and threatened to cause it to lose its independence and national sovereignty.

In those critical moments the party united against Amin. He had with him no more than 100 members occupying certain government posts. With the party's strength we were able to regain power and bring down Amin's rule. With the 27 December 1979 uprising we crushed the plot of the enemies of the revolution and restored the revolution to its original path. Hence the people called the second and new stage of the revolution the stage of saving the revolution, the masses, and Afghan society.

Question: After having spent 3 weeks in Afghanistan it has become clear to us that your country is the target of an "undeclared" actual war by many foreign forces allied with internal forces. Which, in your view, are the social and political forces hostile to the revolution inside Afghanistan? Which are the external forces fighting the war against you, and what in particular is the role of the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia?

Answer: The counterrevolutionary elements that are active in the form of armed gangs infiltrating from abroad are composed of the feudal forces which lost their privileges after the April revolution, some of the reactionary clerics, supporters of the toppled royalist regime in Afghanistan, smugglers, and agents of reactionary countries and imperialism. These forces have influence on some Afghan citizens who have fallen temporarily under their power and manipulation through deceit, misrepresentation, and terror.

A number of reactionary and imperialist countries organize, train, and finance the counterrevolutionary elements in the countries bordering Afghanistan. I mean Iran, Pakistan, and China. Infiltration operations and acts of an undeclared war are launched against us from there. Foremost among the countries that are taking part in the undeclared war against us are the United States, Britain, West Germany, Japan, China, France,

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt — particularly during Al-Sadat's rule — and Israel.

The United States has provided the counterrevolutionary elements with more than $1 billion in order to kill the Afghans and destroy their country. This year alone the U.S. Congress allocated $480 million to finance the "undeclared" war against us. The amount of aid the United States has given to the counterrevolutionary elements is more than 6 times the amount it gave to Afghanistan as aid in 20 years before the revolution. The other countries such as West Germany, Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, Britain and France gave financial aid to the tune of $800 million.

Despite the close ties between our people and the Pakistani people, Islamabad's military regime under Ziaul Haq's leadership has turned Pakistani territory into a launching point for the counterrevolutionary forces against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

At present there are 120 camps for training in terrorist and military operations on Pakistani territory. Other groups are being trained in Iran and in Xinjiang province in China.

This "undeclared" war which our people are confronting is in fact an aggression by the imperialist countries against the integrity of Afghan territory and our independence and national sovereignty. It is part of the aggressive strategy and international terror which the United States is exercising in order to achieve its objective of imposing its domination of the world and South Asia in particular.

This war has caused tremendous economic losses which exceeded $35 billion, a figure representing two-thirds of what was spent on developing our country in the 20 years before the revolution. As a result of these terrorist operations more than 254 mosques and places of prayer were destroyed as well as more than 1,840 schools, 130 hospitals and health centers, 800 transport vehicles, 1000 km of electric and telephone lines, and a number of power stations and economic projects.

What is strange is that the U.S. Administration under Reagan's leadership, which is directly responsible for sabotage and terrorist operations, describes peoples' liberation movements, including the just struggle of the heroic Palestinian people for freedom and independence, as "international terrorism."

Question: Which are the political forces and organizations that comprise the counterrevolutionary elements and which are publicly known as the "mujahidin"? Is the Muslim Brotherhood playing a role among these forces? What is the truth regarding what has been said about the formation of a unified front of the forces hostile to the revolution on the Afghan-Pakistan borders?

Answer: Many centers have been established beyond our borders, on Iranian and Pakistani territory, going under the various names of the forces opposed to the revolution. These groupings, despite names and appearances, are not political forces with a specific political program. Rather they are groupings hostile to the revolution but in conflict with one another. But the major part of these forces consists of Afghan nationals who were deceived as a result of misunderstanding, lack of consciousness, and false slogans about the protection of Islam as well as a result of fear of, and terror by, these gangs. At the center of these forces stands the Muslim Brotherhood, which, prior to the revolution, was the basic force opposed to development and progress. In our country the Muslim Brotherhood has worked in full coordination with the CIA and the reactionary forces.

The counterrevolutionary forces are incapable of standing up for 1 day in the face of our armed forces. However, it is not the internal forces that complicate the situation in our country, it is the attacks and the blatant support for the undeclared war which the imperialist and reactionary countries are waging against us and on which they spend billions of dollars in order to hinder the triumphant Afghan people's struggle.

There is no real unity or union between these counterrevolutionary groups. The radical differences between these gangs distance them from one another. The basic differences in the conflict between them lie in dividing the booty, the U.S. dollars, and the Arab petrodollars that are paid into the private accounts of the leaders of these gangs. All that is said about union between them is done so only for appearances, constituting temporary phenomena that do not cover the depth of the conflict and even bloody clashes between these gangs which exchange the planting of bombs in each another's centers and the assassination of their members.

Question: Pakistan, Iran, and the foreign forces hostile to your revolution have benefited from the Afghan refugees in the armed operations against you as well as in the propaganda field. What, in your estimate, is the number of refugees? As we know, you have addressed an appeal to the Afghan people to return home and you issued a law pardoning those who return. What are the obstacles preventing the return of others?

Answer: There are exaggerations and lies regarding the question of Afghan refugees. It is one of the important propaganda weapons the counterrevolutionary forces are exploiting. Generally, among those refugees there are those who fled after losing their wealth, which they plundered from the people or derived from their illegitimate class privileges, as a result of the revolution's triumph. They consciously and deliberately stood against the revolution. Others include those who were driven to leave the country by a lack of awareness and under the influence of propaganda by the enemies of the revolution. Still others are those whom the counterrevolutionary forces forced to emigrate under the threat of violence and coercion. The refugees also include those who fled from the country during the criminal practices of Hafizullah Amin's regime, who left their homes out of fear of imprisonment, murder, or torture.

But the great majority of the refugees are those Afghans who before the revolution used to go to Iran, Pakistan, and the Arab Gulf countries in search of work and livelihood, fleeing from poverty. There are also the nomad bedouins who are used to the nomadic life on the open borders with Pakistan and Iran. They were surprised by the counterrevolutionary forces and the reactionary regimes in Pakistan and Iran placing obstacles on the path of their return to the country following the revolution's triumph.

There are no accurate statistics as to the number of those refugees. The statistics announced by the ruling regimes in Pakistan and Iran or the counterrevolutionary groups are contradictory and exaggerated. Financial aid by the reactionary governments and organizations and world imperialism to these groups and to Pakistan is defined on the basis of the number of refugees. The world press, particularly the Western press, has pointed out the vast differences in the data submitted on the number of refugees. We have clearly announced that the country's bosom is open to all the Afghan people who are now outside the borders without discriminating or differentiating among them.

We are advocates of peace and national reconciliation as well as of peace and security. Within the framework of the current policy of broadening the social base of the revolution and under the currently valid pardon decree issued by the Revolution Command Council, the Afghan Grand National Assembly (Loya Jirga) and the Higher Council for the Border Tribes issued an appeal to the deceived citizens to return to the land of their fathers and forefathers without fear of questioning.

Despite the fact that the Pakistani militarists and their American masters as well as the Chinese and Iran's reactionary rulers place obstacles on the path of the honorable citizens' return to their country, our efforts to achieve peace and bring back the refugees have in fact borne fruit. Hundreds of thousands of citizens outside the country have responded to our appeal. Following the recent Loya Jirga meeting, tens of thousands of citizens have returned and a large number of individuals who were in the counterrevolutionary ranks have laid down their arms and resumed their normal life.

Question: In your statement you mentioned an Egyptian role in supporting the counterrevolutionary elements. Our party, the NPUG, had a clear stand against interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. This role was admitted by former president Anwar al-Sadat several times. The latest of these admissions was a few days before he was assassinated when, in September 1981, he told the Western press that the United States had contacted him in December 1979 and asked him to open up the arms and ammunition depots for those Afghans wishing to fight. Al-Sadat met their request and U.S. aircraft began shipping arms directly from Cairo to Pakistan. These were the same Soviet-made weapons which the Egyptian Army had before the severance of relations with the Soviets. Al-Sadat also admitted training some of the counterrevolutionary forces in Egypt. In view of the data you have, is the present Egyptian Government still participating in the war against you?

Answer: First, I would like to express the Afghan people's thanks and appreciation for the NPUG and its Secretary General Khalid Muhyi al-Din and all the Egyptian national forces for the truly brotherly and peaceful stand in defense of the Afghan revolution against Al-Sadat's intrigues.

What Egyptian reaction, under Al-Sadat's leadership, committed against the Muslim and toiling Afghan people is known to the whole world. Al-Sadat placed the Egyptian arms and ammunition at the disposal of the U.S. Administration and provided the rebels and outlaws in Afghanistan with arms, training, advisers, and even with funds. Presently, training is still going on there, but to a lesser extent than during Al-Sadat's time.

We are confident that the pro-interference forces will eventually submit to the will of the brotherly and peaceful Egyptian people. They will accept our revolution — the great April Revolution — as a fait accompli and will be compelled to stop interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Egyptian and Afghan people are linked by traditional historical ties and common cultural and religious roots. Brotherly peoples have the same interests and the same enemies.

Question: What about Israel's role?

Answer: The Zionist regime is the principal U.S. ally in the area. It does not only commit aggression against the fraternal Palestinian people and all the Arab peoples, but it is also playing an active role in creating tension in the area and in the movement against progress throughout the world at the the instructions of, and in coordination with, Washington. There is no doubt that you have detailed information regarding the close ties and cooperation between the racist Tel Aviv and Pretoria regimes and the exportation of Israeli arms to the Chilean dictatorial regime and to El Salvador. The Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, and the CIA work hand in hand against the liberation and revolutionary movements. These joint operations include the training and equipping of Afghan counterrevolutionary elements. The Western media has admitted this fact along with the fact that the Soviet weapons the Israelis captured during their aggression against Sinai and the Golan and their invasion of Lebanon were delivered to the Afghan counterrevolutionary forces through U.S. espionage rings. In fact, the weapons the rebels are training with in Pakistani camps are made in Israel.

Israeli radio broadcasts a special program in Dari, the language of the Afghan people, and together with the other Israeli media, participates in the psychological warfare against our country. They never fail to exploit any opportunity for spreading lies against revolutionary development in our society.

Question: How do you evaluate Israel's role in the Arab area and what is your attitude toward the Palestinian revolution for the establishment of a democratic and independent Palestinian state and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the revolution's recourse to armed struggle to achieve its objectives?

Answer: With regard to the Palestinian people's struggle against the occupying Zionists, we have always stood on the side of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in accordance with the foreign policy of our party and of the Afghan Democratic Republic. We have stressed these rights in all principal party and government statements and documents.

As you know, the PLO political representation in Kabul is at ambassadorial level. We have always stressed the need for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, and for enabling the Palestinian people to establish their independent state in the land of their forefathers.

The development of events confirms that Zionist Israel is an active imperialist base in the heart of the Arab world against social progress and peace. It carries out U.S. strategic plans in the region. It is a source of constant danger and of aggressive policy against independence, national sovereignty, and the integrity of the Arab territories. It dreams of establishing an Israeli empire from the Nile to the Euphrates.

With regard to supporting the Palestinian Arab people's rights, we have supported the Soviet Union's constructive proposals for holding an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We would accept any alternative agreed upon by all parties concerned. Development of events and historical experience have proved the futility of bilateral agreements such as that of Camp David between Al-Sadat and Israel, since they offer no support for solving the essential problem.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian revolution, in its struggle for freedom and independence, has the right to resort to all means, including armed struggle. The heroic Palestinian people alone will decide which path to follow in their liberation struggle.

Question: We now come to a controversial issue which has been the subject of much argument and clamor, namely, the question of the Soviet presence in your country, or, as the Western media call it, the Soviet invasion of your country. What exactly is the Soviet Union's role in confronting the "undeclared" war against you? Is Soviet support restricted to military backing or is there economic and technical assistance? What is the role of this assistance in implementing your plans to realize the national democratic revolution? Under what terms and conditions will your government decide on the withdrawal of Soviet forces?

Answer: It is a well known and established fact that Afghan-Soviet friendship is as ancient as the existence of the Soviet state itself. They are relations distinguished by moral straightforward ness. Soviet-Afghan relations were established more then half a century before the revolution. They have been established on the basis of our people's interests and their will, under difficult historical conditions when our freedom-loving people were standing against British colonialism, fighting against it at the beginning of this century. Since King Amanullah in 1919, important Soviet aid in the economic, cultural, and military fields has played an important part in strengthening Afghanistan's independence.

There is no doubt that the friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, based on total equality of rights and mutual respect, have strengthened Afghanistan's stand in the international arena and have provided broad opportunities for friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Following World War II, Afghan-Soviet friendship emerged triumphant from its testing by time.

The Loya Jirga, at its meeting in 1955, rejected attempts by the imperialist countries to link Afghanistan (which was then royalist) to the military alliances hostile to the Soviet Union and decided that Afghanistan should remain a neutral country.

For the past 65 years the Soviet Union has given unconditional aid to our country for economic and social development. It resolved problems stemming from the backwardness of the Afghan community which was forced to remain in the darkness of the Medieval Ages. It suffices to point out that during a period of 26 years (from 1955 to 1981) some 190 projects have been completed with Soviet aid. Presently, the Soviet Union is providing important aid for the growth of our national economy and the implementation of the 5-year plan. It is difficult to enumerate the number and type of these projects, but it would suffice to mention here some of the projects that have been carried out with honest Soviet aid: the oil and natural gas industry in northern Afghanistan; the fertilizers company; the electric power stations in Mazar-e Sharif, Naghlu, and Pol-e Khomri; the Jangalak industrial complex; Kabul International Airport; the central automatic flour mill and bakery in Kabul; the Kabul-Hayraton road linking the northern part of the country to the south through a 3 km mountain pass in the Hindukush mountains; Towraghoudi-Herat-Qandahar road; the irrigation canal in Jalalabad (70 km long); and Daruntah electric power station as well as scores of projects and bridges which all provide concrete evidence of this friendship.

Following the success of the revolution other projects were set up thanks to Soviet-Afghan friendship, such as copper mining at the Aynak mines which are among the biggest in the world, an oil refinery, the building of six local airports, a factory manufacturing prefabricated houses in Kabul and so on. So, 60 percent of industrial production facilities have been set up with Soviet help. In the light of these close ties, we receive Soviet military aid,something we have always received from the Soviet Union since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The legitimate Afghan Government asked the Soviet Union to give us military aid in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation which we concluded with the Soviet Union on 5 December 1978, and on the basis of a previous agreement signed between the two countries after our independence as well as in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Soviet Union responded to the Afghan Government's request and sent limited military units in order to help our people repel external aggression, preserve our national independence, and defend the integrity of our country.

We asked for Soviet aid at a critical point in our country's history following our success in toppling Hafizullah Amin and his group. At that moment all the nationalist Afghan forces became united with no difference between progressive and nationalist, and communist and socialist. Everyone became united under our party's leadership and we took over power just hours before a total collapse.

There are moments when time is everything. One hour or perhaps minutes in war and revolution could change the course of history or lead to the loss of everything. In those days our people's fate and the desire to preserve the country made it incumbent upon us to ask for military assistance from the Soviet Union. The Americans were ready to attack and so were Pakistan, Iran, And China. Without Soviet help there was danger of losing our independence, the integrity of our territory. There was the danger

of a spread of tension in the area, and probably the outbreak of regional wars and wars of intervention, perhaps all-out conventional war.

As a superpower, the Soviet Union realizes the situation precisely. It has 1,481 miles [as published] of borders with us and places the security and protection of these borders among its priorities. For the sake of their interest and our interest in Afghanistan they responded to the request to send a limited number of military units to our country for the protection of our independence and the integrity of our territory and finally for the protection of the revolution. The protection of the revolution was not among the first but rather the last reasons.

This honorable assistance cannot be called and invasion as the imperialist and reactionary countries do. The term invasion is used in the case of a state which, contrary to the will and resolve of a legitimate government and of a certain people and other state, takes measures jeopardizing the independence and sovereignty of that other state, such as the U.S. invasion of independent Grenada, Israel's invasion of Lebanon, and South African's invasion of Namibia.

The Soviet forces' role is very limited. The basic role in confronting aggression falls on the Afghan Armed Forces and the Afghan citizens, millions of whom carry arms in defense of the revolution. The reasons prompting us to ask for Soviet military assistance essentially still exit. Afghanistan is still facing an undeclared war being waged by the United States, its allies, and its agents. As long as this war continues, the Soviet military units will remain in Afghanistan in order to repel external aggression. When the danger of aggression is removed, foreign interference stops, and international guarantees are given that there will no repetition of aggression, then the question of the return of Soviet military units to their peace-loving country will be discussed between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has several times declared this principled stand.

Question: Mr President, What is your comment on the claim by several quarters that your continuation in power and the PDPA's continuation in power depends on the Soviet forces remaining in Afghanistan.

Answer: It is difficult for one to talk about oneself, but your question leaves no room for choice. The Afghan people know who I am. For more than 30 years I have been in the political battlefield on the side of the people. When I was a 20-year old university student I was jailed for 3 years, and for 8 years I was member of parliament during the rule of King Zahir Shah. I was PDPA secretary for 21 years. I participated in editing the newspapers *KHALQ* and *PARCHAM*, of which I was the chief editor. I did not land on the people from the sky and Moscow did not manufacture me. I am an Afghan manufacture, in flesh and blood. Moscow did not bring me to power.

As I have already said, the April Revolution broke out under the PDPA's leadership. The PDPA restored its unity after 10 years of division and we elected Taraki as the party secretary general because he was the most senior in age, regardless of anything else. We are loyal to our people's tradition of giving special consideration to the older people. We stood with Taraki and supported him. I was his assistant in the party, the state, and the government. But a palace revolution occurred and Hafizullah Amin took over power. I returned to Kabul secretly from abroad. Many of our party leaders were in jail and others in hiding and operating underground. We sought to unite the party against Hafizullah Amin; we expelled Amin from our party by force and regained power. Some 95 percent of the people were with us.

Throughout its contemporary history, Afghanistan has not had any parties of any consequence or continuity except our party. There were mere small groups of rightists and leftists. The rightistsoperating against Afghanistan from abroad and most of the leftists groups actually joined our party. When we regained power, our position was similar to that of Hamlet: "To be or not to be." This was the situation in Afghanistan.

The Soviets were already in Afghanistan. There were actually 15,000 Soviet soldiers before Hafizullah Amin's downfall. Taraki asked 14 times for Soviet military support and Hafizullah Amin asked 3 times for such support, but the Soviets did not approve.

When we regained power on 27 December 1979 and asked for Soviet support, the Soviets responded for the reasons I already mentioned.

I believe that your extensive tour of Afghanistan has confirmed to you that we rule because our people are on our side and not for of any other reason.

Question: It is obvious that the PDPA has played an important role in the Afghan people's history and in the establishment of the Afghan Democratic Republic. On 1 January your party completed 21 years of struggle. There is much that needs to be clarified about your party. Does your party, for example, have a unified ideology and what is this ideology and is your party communist as the Western press says?

Answer: Yes, our party does have one single ideology. There is no real party without an ideology. There has been one complete unified ideology since it was established. Our ideology has been and still is the ideology that serves the basic interests of all the working and production factions and classes in our society; the ideology of the suppressed majority. That is, the majority of working forces in our country and the world that defend peace, man's freedom, the national independence of nations, democracy, and social progress and stands against suppression and nuclear war.

There is a minority in the world, maybe 1 percent, that monopolizes wealth and power. I mean the world capitalist monopolies at the ton of which the military monopolies, NATO, and the United States. This ruling monopoly in the West and in the United States promotes aggression, interference, and nuclear war. They are not content with starting wars on the face of earth but they want it in space. They want to turn the world into the "hell" about which our magnanimous Islamic religions tells us.

On the other hand peace, the happiness of man on earth, and the continuation of civilization are defended by 99 percent of man-

kind. The socialist countries, the world liberation movement, the socialist liberation movement in the Third World, and the workers' democratic movement in the Third World defend the happiness and progress of man in their own countries and defend peace and progress in the world. These forces realize that they have a national, regional, and international duty. This is an ideological war and battle. We clearly belong to the ideology of the majority of the great masses. This is what we call ideology. It has only one single name: scientific socialism. This was the name chosen by your great leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and adopted by your party, the NPUG.

Our party, the PDPA, as is evident from its name is the party of all the working and toiling classes in our country. We accept in our party everyone who accepts the program of action and the party statutes. Our revolution is not a socialist revolution; rather it is a national democratic revolution led by the PDPA seeking to transfer the society from its present national democratic stage to a more progressive stage without bypassing the necessary stages for developing society.

At present we have the Patriotic and National Front that includes in its ranks the workers, peasants, craftsmen, the intelligentsia, the petite bourgeoisie, the national industrial capital, the shaykhs, the nationalists, the clerics, and the representatives of all the nationalisties and tribes in Afghanistan. As you know there are more than 20 nationalities in our country. We understand the theory and the reality well. We are not so narrow-minded as to say that we represent only the workers and the peasants. No, our revolution is a national democratic revolution. Following the success of the national democratic revolution our children may chose what we believe in — scientific socialism.

Of course, the enemies of our revolution, the imperialists and the reactionaries, raise false slogans and talk about the "communist danger" and about "Islam being in danger" and other such slogans that are being used in the psychological and propaganda warfare against us. They resort to the method of distorting the ideology of the working classes by relying on the spread of falsehoods and distortion of facts. Our answer to them is what you see in Afghanistan today.

Question: Do you find any contradiction between "scientific socialism" and Islam particularly in the light of the reactionary Islamic trends in Afghanistan and abroad, bearing in mind that in a previous statement (on 11 December 1981) you said that the ideas of the majority of the illiterate inhabitants are basically formed by the mullahs (the clerics who are to be found in the villages and among the tribesmen)?

Answer: The ideas of scientific socialism emerged as result of the long, hard, and complex struggle by the workers and the toiling classes hostile to class injustices in the capitalist societies. They are a historical necessity for freeing the toiling man from colonialism and class exploitation. These ideas, contrary to allegations by bourgeois ideologists and enemies of the people's classes, have never been against the people's beliefs. Our ideas, principles, and ideology are in the service of the people and its beliefs. We belong to our people and to what they believe in. Struggle for happiness, progress, freedom, and justice for the people, which is the essence of scientific socialism, cannot be contrary to the spirit of Islam.

Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, the great leader of all Arab peoples, not only the Egyptian people, declared in the national action charter your people's adoption of scientific socialism. 'Abd al-Nasir, I believe, was a true Muslim and a true Egyptian and Arab nationalist.

Islam says: Seek knowledge even if in China. One cannot be against the use of electric power because Edison was not a Muslim or against the use of trains and buses and the achievements of sciences in general. But there are those who deliberately misinterpret Islam. There are those who use Islam as an umbrella in the interest of the exploitationist class and raise it as a slogan in their struggle. We believe that those are the real enemies of Islam. We are struggling against every attempt to link Islam and its great legacy to backwarndess and ignorance because this is contrary to the spirit of Islam. We defend Muhammad's Islam and the Islam of the caliphs and of 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Islam is against oppression and class exploitation. Islam, finally, comes from a man's heart and concerns his relations with his creator.

In our country in particular, we had an experiment with those who want to exploit Islam against the people's interest. When the era of European colonialism began, England came and set up its empire in India. It adopted the policy of divide and rule. They wrote a book about Islam. When I was a student held in the Kabul jail I met with a fanatic Muslim student who belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood in the Punjab. He told me that God does not himself come to defend Islam but rather He defends it through intermediaries, and the intermediary for defending Islam is England.

After we obtained independence during the era of King Amanullah Khan -- a true Muslim -- he wanted to develop Afghanistan, to take it out of the medieval ages and modernize it. England opposed him in the name of Islam in order to keep the country in the darkness of ignorance and backwardness without any culture or learning. They wanted Afghanistan to remain medieval so that there would be a gap between us and our neighbor the Soviet Union and the national liberation movement in India and Southeast Asia. They wanted a backward buffer zone between the socialist revolution and the national liberation revolution in Asia.

Unfortunately today there is an "American Islam" which alone is standing against real Islam and against progress, science, and socialism. If our prophet Muhammad -- may God's peace and blessing be upon him -- today returned to the Arabian Peninsula and to Mecca and Medina and saw billions of dollars go to the United States and Britain and, indirectly, even to Israel, what would he say about us Muslims? Is it not ridiculous that Reagan should appoint himself defender of Islam?

Reagan today in the eyes of those ruling Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt, and Iran, is a great Muslim despite the fact that he is the same Reagan that stands against Islam in Palestine and the Middle East. According to the Koran, Israel has no right to

Palestine, but Reagan defends Israel and defends Ziaul Haq's tyrannical military regime in Islamabad.

Also, Iran is not an Islamic revolution or even a popular revolution. It is an example of chauvinistic nationalist fanaticism. It is a Farsi revolution persecuting all other nationalities inside and outside the country.

Becauwe we are the inheritors of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani who, with a progressive and national perspective, sought to unify the Islamic world in order to confront the British occupation to which he was hostile, we will continue to struggle against the real enemies of Islam and for the true Islam, a just Islam coupled with peace and human brotherhood and against oppression, injustice, and backwarndess. If the Prophet's land has become an reactionary center in the name of Islam, Kabul will become the capital of true Islam. We are the real Islam and those who are hostile to us in the name of Islam are its real enemies.

Briefly, to say that there is contradiction between socialism and religion is an invention of the imperialists and the reactionaries. We as real nationalist and progressive Muslims must object to the asking of this question in the first place.

Question: Next April the April 1978 rEvolution will complete its eighth year. Recently (on 27 December) the sixth anniversary of what you call the second stage of the revolution was marked. What has the national democratic revolution offered the Afghan people?

Answer: Obviously the achievement of political and social changes, completion of radical changes in a society belonging to the Middle Ages in which there is 95 percent illiteracy and in which poverty and economic and social backwardness prevails is not an easy task. What the revolution has inherited is also not easy or simple.

Nevertheless, I believe that we have made important progress. With the beginning of the April 1978 Revolution millions of peasants were freed of the burden of debts. The Revolutionary Council issued a decision abolishing debts owed by peasants and decided to limit agricultural holdings and to distribute land and water to the peasants. Some 313,000 peasant families obtained land free. We are devoting great attention to the question of agricultural reform and offer comprehensive assistance to the peasants. In addition to land and water we provided mechanized farming stations, selected seeds, chemical fertilizers, loans to farmer cooperatives, and basic social services. In the economic field there has also been tangible progress. Agricultural production last year increased by 7.7 percent compared with the first year of the 1978 revolution and industrial production increased by 4.6 percent. Scores of government and mixed economic projects have been built.

Raising the standard of mass political action has played a role in achieving progress in the various fields and in strengthening the country's financial situation. During the past year an increase of 8.6 percent was achieved in general production and 15.2 percent in invested general production [as published] compared with the year 1978. This could not have been possible without the accomplishment of cultural revolution, at the heart of which was the national campaign against illiteracy. We have organized 20,000 illiteracy combating sessions in the country that covered all the nationalities and tribes in Afghanistan. So far 1.5 million Afghans have been taught to read and write.

At the same time we have paid special attention to creating technical, scientific, and university graduates cadres. Since the revolution some 12,000 persons with high qualifications have graduated from universities and institutions in Afghanistan and fundamental changes have been made in the education and teaching systems. New universities and additional colleges have been established as well as technical and vocational training centers.

The state and the party devoted great attention to the citizens' health and treatment. Every Afghan citizen today enjoys free health services, including treatment, surgical operations, and medicine. The number of hospitals and clinics has increased by 32 percent and the number of doctors by 87 percent. In order to improve the standard of living we have doubled the workers' wages and during last year the state employees' and workers' wages increased by 18.7 to 20 percent.

Many important things have been achieved on the political, popular, and democratic levels. The PDPA has gained wide popularity and new membership. At the same time more than 30 tribes are represented in our party. Youths (under 30 years) represent 65 percent of the party membership. Of the new membership workers account for 16.9 percent and peasants account for 33.3 percent. The workers and peasants generally form 28.4 percent of the party membership.

Also the Patriotic and National Front was born. It includes in its ranks all the nationalities, the tribes, the patriotic and democratic forces, the nation's prominent figures, the social and popular organizations such as the General Federation of Workers, the Democratic Women's Organization, the Democratic Youth Organization, the Artists Union, the Writers Union, the Journalists Union, the Higher Council of Ulemas and Clerics, the Council of the Tribesmen and Nationalities Associations, the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization, and so on.

An important historical event occurred in 1985 when the historic Grand National Assembly of the Afghan masses (Loya Jirga) which consists of the representatives of all the Afghan people met in Kabul and was attended by more than 1,000 delegates. The Higher Council of the Border Tribes also met with more than 3,000 delegates attending. During that year the law on local councils was implemented. Free and democratic elections were held for the citizens' representatives in all the organs of local government at village, district, and provincal levels. These elections are still taking place throughout Afghanistan. The elections, which I believe you have observed, have proved the Afghan people's firm will to pursue the road to political stability, the sovereignty of the working classes, and the continuation of revolution. All these developments and achievements have been realized under the conditions of the undeclared war by imperialism and reaction. Had it not been for this war our people would have doubled their triumphs.

Question: Mr President, the question of democracy always arouses our concern. In a statement you made on 29 December 1979 you said that at the first opportunity a broad front will be formed that will include the patriotic and democratic forces under the PDPA's leadership and that it will ensure all the democratic freedoms including the freedom to form patriotic and progressive parties and popular organizations, and the freedom of press, of expression, and of assembly. During our 3-week visit to Afghanistan we have seen that you have made considerable progress toward fulfilling this promise, yet there is a persistent question: Is there a possibility in future that parties other than the ruling party will be formed in Afghanistan?

Answer: In order to answer this question it is necessary to take a quick glance at the political state of affairs and the social conditions that existed before the revolution. Under the monarchy, local feudalism, and the corrupt bureaucracy, the Afghan people remained deprived of any participation in political and social life and in determining its fate whether under the reactionary monarchy or Daud's tyrannical government. The Afghans were never legally allowed to form political parties, trade unions, or democratic or social organization; nor were they allowed freedom of assembly and expression. After the revolution, especially during its second stage and after eliminating Hafizullah Amin and his clique, the restoration of the revolution to its original path, and the participation of the patriotic classes and factions in it, we launched the process of promoting democracy in political and social life, in state administration, and in all the state affairs as well as in ensuring individual and collective freedoms. These freedoms and rights have been recorded in the basic principles (the provisional constitution).

In December 1979 thousands of political prisoners were released without discrimination on grounds of religious, ideological, or organizational affiliation and everything possible was done to restore the atmosphere of understanding with those who chose to distance themselves from the revolution because of the mistakes committed during the first stage of the revolution. Democratic, social, and trade union organizations have been set up, the Patriotic and National Front was established as the state's social base, the Loya Jirga was convened, local government elections were held, and the Higher Council of Border Tribes was convened. Consultation [shura] plays an important role in our country's political system; it combines the requirements of a modern society with the traditions and habits of our forefathers as well as meeting the interests of the toiling class and of all the patriotic and democratic forces.

If you go back to the 10 proposals which I put to the Revolutionary Council at the extraordinary plenary session on 9 November 1985 and the Revolutionary Council statement in this regard you will find that the state is tending toward further effective participation by all the patriotic forces in conducting political and social life. We clearly announced at this meeting that any political power has the right to establish a political party or a social organization unconditionally. The only condition is loyalty to the revolution and not to conspire against the state. When new parties are formed they will have the right to publish their own newspapers, hold meetings, and join the Patriotic and National front.

Question: A final question, Mr President: You personally had two important experiments. The first was the experiment of parliamentary work and the second of journalistic work. How did these two experiments influence your views and your method of political action?

Answer: Talking about oneself is difficult, but where the views and political actions of those who shoulder a fundamental responsibility in their country are concerned it is not separate from public action and struggle. First and foremost, it must be made clear that my personal experiment is an indivisible part of the activities and experiments of the PDPA. The experiments of revolutionary struggle are considered a major school for the masses and party leaders and the triumphs and temporary defeats teach us many lessons and help us to clarify the course and rectify views. I was member of parliament for Kabul for 8 years during King Zahir Shah's rule. I believe that without this experiment I would not have been able to understand Afghanistan correctly and completely. In the parliament there are representatives of all factions, classes, nationalities, and Afghan tribes; there are the reactionaries, the feudalists, the backward men of religion, and the cultured capitalists. I used to meet daily with ordinary citizens who would come from all parts of the country on the grounds that my colleagues and I were their true representatives. Strong ties were forged between us and the people. I knew their life, their families, their habits, and their problems. I gained a greater understanding of the peasants, the students, the workers, and the intelligentsia. I also acquired a thorough knowledge of the government's weak points and of what was going on in the Armed Forces, the police, the cabinet, and the king's palace. I studied Afghanistan through the parliament and I used to tour towns and villages. It was a tremendous experiment. I trained in parliament on how to manage conflict. I know how the agent governments work for the United States, and how they use the parliament to change governments. It was not a theoretical experiment derived from books but a practical experiment stemming from the experience of daily life and direct contact. With regard to the journalistic work experiment whether in *KHALQ* or *PARCHAM* newspapers, I had a rich experiment which stood me in good stead ideologically and on the plane of political action. In order to write there must be deep awareness and you must read in depth. One must understand the world revolutionary experiments. You must understand politics, programs, and correct tactics. You must study the people, history, and politics and express the people in a language understood and accepted by the people. Politics, my friends, is art, science, strategy, and tactics. The press is a vast world. In order to be a realistic and progressive journalists, you must be with the people and not with money and dollars. To be always a close friend of the truth is really enjoyable and beautiful but it is difficult.

NFF Chairman Meets With Foreign Journalists

LD210945 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0542 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 20, BAKHTAR — The National Fatherland Front, NFF, of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, has over 760,000 members who are organized in over 2500 councils throughout Afghanistan. This was stated by Adorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA, to a large number of foreign journalists

from the socialist countries, India, Sweden, the United States, Britain, Kuwait, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany and Finland.

Replying to a question posed by a journalist of PTI of India, Abdorrahim Hatef said that a good number of non-party figures have been elected as members of the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium and it is for the first time that a religious figure has been elected as vice-president of the Revolutionary Council.

Abdorrahim Hatef added that right now tens of thousands of our countrymen have picked up arms for defending their families, their country and the revolution.

Dwelling on the role of the National Fatherland Front in the social and political life of the country, he said that the NFF's role is on the increase day by day. He cited as an example the election of NFF's candidates to the membership of the state highest organ of the DRA, that is, the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium, the majority of whom are non-party.

Touching upon the election of the local organs of the state power and administration, A. Hatef said that NFF plays a significant role in the elections. Right now, hundreds of NFF candidates were elected to the membership of the councils of representatives of the people, have occupied the highest official posts in the localities and are actively engaged in social and political activities.

The visiting foreign journalists also visited Watten nursery and chatted with the orphaned children. A ten-year old child, Shah Aqa from Parwan Province in an exciting talk with a journalist of Federal Republic of Germany said that he and his colleagues live in a common family and are enjoying an even better life than they did with their own parents due to the kind attention paid to them by their revolutionary state.

The visiting foreign journalists also had a meeting with Abdul Rashid Waziri, deputy minister of tribes and nationalities. Talking on the historical characteristics and geographical situation of the regions where tribes and nationalities live, Rashid Waziri described the great role of the tribes as an unshakeable bulwark for safeguarding the independence of the country against the aggressions and encroachments made by colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism.

Replying to a Japanese journalist, Rashid Waziri said that the majority of those who live outside the country under the pressure of imperialist propaganda want to return to their homeland availing of the decree of general amnesty of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Replying to a question raised by a REUTER journalist, Rashid Waziri said that the frontier tribes are armed due to their historical and national characteristics and regard their weapons as a means of defending and safeguarding their honour and freedom.

Foreign Minister Holds Press Conference 22 January

LD222059 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, held a press conference today with a group of foreign journalists who had come to Kabul at the invitation of his ministry. At the press conference the minister of foreign affairs replied to various questions from the foreign journalists about the DRA foreign policy, the process of Geneva talks, efforts of the DRA government for the peaceful solution of the events around Afghanistan through talks, the situation in the region, and topical international issues, in a friendly atmosphere.

PDPA Political Bureau Supports Gorbachev Initiative

LD221856 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau has held a session, chaired by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau regards the announcement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, presenting a collection of new and major principles of his country's foreign policy, as responsive to the needs of the world people, and it profoundly affirms and supports it. The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau has instructed all party committee, primary party organizations and ideological personnel in all [word indistinct] to take measures to explain this important historic document inside and outside the country. At this session decisions were also made on a number of immediate domestic and foreign issues.

Baluchistan Tribes Demonstrate Against Pakistan

LD210917 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 20, BAKHTAR: The struggle movement of the people of Baluchistan against the oppressive people of Pakistan has gained extensive dimension in the wake of the jirga earlier held by the various tribes of Baluchistan.

The reports reaching here say that an extensive demonstrations held in Chaman market staged by Pushtun Khowa party against the despotic rulers of Pakistan. [sentence as received] Over six thousand people had participated from the various tribes of Chaman and its suburbs. The demonstrators in their slogans called for free and democratic elections in Pakistan in which everybody should have free vote. They also chanted slogans such as down to Ziaul Haq, long live Khan Abdul Wali Khan, the Pushtun leader and long live the leader of Afghanistan who is a sincere and honest friend of tribes.

The reports reaching here say that the police of the oppressive state of Pakistan were not able to react against the awakened people of Baluchistan who are combating to secure their established rights as the regime could forsee a violent clash between the Baluchi people and the Pakistani policemen.

Anti-Terrorist Probers Take Charge of Investigation

HK230702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 23 (AFP) — Forty-four people including nine foreigners died when fire swept a luxury hotel here today in a suspected arson attack, and the case has been handed over to anti-terrorist probers, police said. A West German diplomat and his wife were among the foreign victims. Preliminary investigations suggested that the remaining seven were Americans and Australians, City Police Chief Ved Marwah said. Hotel Director S.C. Jain also told reporters: "We do not rule out sabotage ... in fact we suspect it. The strange thing is that the fire broke out at a place which was empty."

Guests said they heard no fire alarm, but escaped after smoke began to engulf their rooms. Survivors said many of the victims in the blaze were suffocated. There were 180 people staying at the 137-room hotel, located in the Vasant Vihar elegant residential district favoured by foreign diplomats.

The West German Embassy here identified two of the victims as Gunther Gerlack and his wife. Mr. Gerlack had just arrived in India to head the embassy's Administration Office and was living in the hotel as he had yet to find a house. Earlier, the hotel management had told journalists that six Americans, eight Australians and two West Germans were missing.

Earlier this month the city administration cut off the power supply to three hotels after they had failed to satisfy fire officials about the fire fighting arrangements at the hotels.

Today's blaze also came as Indian security forces were on alert across north India after intelligence reports that Sikh militants campaigning for a separate Sikh nation might mount attacks on India's Republic Day celebrations on Sunday.

President Delivers Republic Day Speech

BK221523 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Republic Day message by Indian President Zail Singh — live or recorded]

[Text] It gives me great pleasure to greet you, my fellow citizens, on our 37th Republic Day tomorrow. On this happy occasion I convey my best wishes to you all. The Republic Day is a joyous occasion for all of us. It reminds us that we are a sovereign people and are the makers and masters of our own national destiny. It also gives us an opportunity to evaluate our achievements and to ponder over the tasks yet to be undertaken and completed. A review of this nature helps us to face the future boldly and with greater self confidence.

Our republic is based on democracy, socialism and secularism. Tolerance and respect for one another are the hallmarks of our democratic system. A democracy harmonises the various forces at work and takes society towards a common goal. It works through various institutions within the framework of our constitution. It is the duty of leaders of all political parties and every citizen of the country to ensure that these institutions work properly and harmony is maintained. Since we became a republic, we have gained rich experience in running democracy successfully.

It is a matter of pride for all of us that our electorate has exercised franchise in a mature and fearless manner and democracy has taken deep roots in our soil. While working within the framework of our constitution, we have to maintain and strengthen the basic unity of the country. Adhering strictly to democratic ideals, we have to accelerate our economic progress. If we develop any differences, those can be resolved through discussion and mutual goodwill.

Political differences should not assume the overtones of hostility or enemity. There should be a healthy competition among political parties to formulate better programmes for greater welfare of the masses. The verdict of the electorate in a democracy is supreme. The will of the people shall prevail. We should learn to respect the sovereign wishes of the people with grace and a spirit of service.

In the year that passed, there were shining examples of the working of our democratic system. The Punjab and Assam accords are models of democratic adjustments that have been welcomed by the people. This amply proves the existence of inner cohesion based on eternal values among the people throughout the country.

The ruling party and the opposition, whether at the all-India level or at the level of states, together represent the collective will of the electorate as partners in the service of the people. Our democratic system allows for free expression of views, and this is necessarily reflected through the electoral process.

The unity of India comes above all other considerations. It is not only the political unity, but the unity of the spirit, sentiment and emotion, the roots of which lie deep in our national consciousness. These have been enriched by the teachings of spiritual leaders and guides throughout our history. It is based on eternal values like truth, love, compassion, tolerance and respect for others. These values have also been enshrined in our constitution. It is, however, unfortunate that some decline in the observance of these values has been evident. It gives rise to many undesirable consequences. For this decline in values, we can only blame ourselves. It is no more possible to escape the responsibility for this in the name of transition. People look up to the leaders for high moral standards. Let all political parties set high moral values and sustain them with their own actions and deeds.

Rule of law is another cardinal principle of our democratic system. It guarantees equal protection of the law to every citizen. It also means the equality of every person before the majesty of the law. It is incumbent on everyone to observe the laws. It is also the duty of all law enforcing agencies to implement the laws strictly in the interests of a peace loving society.

The country's economy has done well last year and the future course is well set with the launching of the seventh 5-year plan. The plan calls for a sustained economic growth at 5 percent per year. For achievement of this objective, a set of programmes and policies have been outlined. It is a matter of happiness to note

that the main thrust in the plan is on the special anti-poverty programmes. Continuance of poverty in any form and in any region is a threat to our stability and unity. Balanced economic growth with justice is a basic feature of our planning process. It is the only answer to meet emerging socio-economic aspirations.

It is gratifying to note that a major objective of the seventh plan is to ensure that the growth of employment opportunities is faster than the growth of labour force. The task of the government is to facilitate increased production by promoting smooth relations between labour and capital. They have a vital role to play to the implementation of the seventh plan. The relations between management and labour should be such as to minimise avoidable friction which harms the national economy. Let us adhere to our philosophy of planning with the active participation of the people. I appeal to all implementing agencies of the plan to work wholeheartedly for its success. It should alleviate growing restlessness among the people, especially the educated youth in urban and rural areas.

India is one of those countries who are affected most by increasing population. The government and the people should keep this in sight. Measures have to be taken to plan the growth rate. At the same time perspective manpower planning is of paramount need keeping in view our economic resources, pace of development and the employment opportunities. This is a national problem and should be viewed as such by all sections of the people.

He have continued to strive for peace, disarmament and cooperation with all countries. Our actions are based on principles of non-alignment and the Charter of the United Nations. We have made special efforts to strengthen multilateral cooperation among the countries of our region. The establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is a step in this direction. The high-level dialogue between the leaders of USSR and USA, which has been opened recently, is also a hopeful sign. I hope it will help to ease tension and the threat of nuclear confrontation. I also hope that the steps taken by our government to normalise relations with Pakistan and to help in finding a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka will bear fruit soon.

The continued policy of racial discrimination in South Africa is still a black spot on the face of the human race. I do hope there will soon be light after the dark tunnel.

Our defence forces deserve the nation's appreciation for performing the onerous task of guarding our borders as well as assisting the people in natural calamities like floods and cyclones. Keeping with the needs of the time they have increased their professional skills and efficiency and are always vigilant to defend the country from any possible external threat. Their welfare merits the nation's continued attention.

With these words, I conclude by appealing to all of you, my countrymen, to maintain the nation's unity, cherish and preserve our cultural values and contribute our best to the fulfilment of the nation's commitment to secularism, socialism and democracy. Jai Hind [hail India].

Official Spokesman on Verdict in Hijacking Trial

BK221601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] India is awaiting details of the Lahore court judgment in the trial of the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane to know the reasons for the acquital of four of them. Stating this, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today the government has noted with satisfaction that the hijackers were tried and sentenced according to the provisions of the Pakistani law.

Swedish Prime Minister Leaves Delhi 23 January

BK230411 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme, left New Delhi for Sweden early this morning after a 5-day stay in India. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan.

Commentary on Nonaligned View of Nuclear Testing

BK201423 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Commentary by political commentator Desu Krishnamurti entitled "NAM [Nonaligned Movement] Proposals on Nuclear Test"]

[Text] The latest Soviet gesture in accepting a nonaligned proposal to ban nuclear weapon tests not only in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater but also underground, may not sound very significant in the welter of proposals and counterproposals flying between Moscow and Washington in the interest of peace and disarmament. The Soviet Union has also extended its unilateral test freeze by another 3 months. But neither India nor the Nonaligned Movement, of which it is still the chairman, is likely to underestimate the value of such an acceptance by Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The nonaligned states are unanimous in the view that each step taken toward disarmament could provide new funds to increase the quality of living in the developing world.

The history of nonaligned initiatives in regard to disarmanent apart, one of the very first things that Mr Rajiv Gandhi did as India's young prime minister, was to give a new thrust to the Nonaligned Movement as the biggest peace movement in the world. The latest 3 months saw stepped up campaigns by Mr Gandhi in the cause of disarmament. Those efforts were in the context of the declaration of the nonaligned foreign ministers at Luanda in September on the urgent need for moratorium on nuclear tests. On his return trip from Nassau summit, Mr Rajiv Gandhi visited the Hague on the eve of the installation of cruise missiles in the Netherlands and later made an unscheduled halt at Moscow to hold wide ranging talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on global issues, particularly disarmament.

With the Geneva summit only a few weeks away then, it was widely believed at that time that consultations between the Soviet and Indian leaders would be very useful because Mr Rajiv

Gandhi had met Mr Ronald Reagan just a couple of days before and had acquired an insight into the U.S. President's thinking on the issues that would figure at Geneva. Three-weeks after this meeting with Mr Gorbachev came the major 6-nation nonaligned initiative on nuclear tests. They proposed a 12-month moratorium, offering to monitor all underground tests by installing sensitive devices on test sites of the superpowers to ensure its strict observance.

Previous proposals for a nuclear weapon test freeze fell through because an effective and mutually acceptable way of verifying of such a freeze could not be found by the superpowers. This initiative was a followup of the summit meeting of the six nations held in New Delhi around this time last year. While the Soviet Union had already announced a unilateral test freeze till January 86, the Americans maintained that such a moratorium was not possible because it could not be monitored.

The 6-nation Delhi declaration had said, and I quote: "The problems of verifying the suspension we propose are difficult but not insurmountable. Third party verifications could provide a high degree of certainty that testing programs have ceased. We propose to establish verification mechanisms on our territories to achieve this objective." When the move was first made in May 1984, it generated a lot of enthusiasm and was blessed by the pope. Nearly 150 congressmen and senators met the President Reagan in support of it. The impact of the 6-nation Delhi declaration in January last was even greater.

But the latest nonaligned initiative coming soon after Nassau and just before Geneva was no surprise. Moscow has already formally committed itself to stop all tests unilaterally for almost 5 months ending 1 January 1986 and for as long thereafter as the United States refrain from testing. Predictably, Mr Gorbachev's latest offer is only a reaffirmation of Moscow's earlier pledge. It now extends this test moratorium by another 3 months.

The new and serious overtures from Moscow about halting, which are exactly reversing the arms race, must evoke a matching response from Washington. A test ban treaty is long overdue and would be a historic step forward to bringhten the prospects of nuclear disarmament. The conclusion of a comprehensive treaty could add to the pressure on France and China who have carried atmospheric tests already.

More recently, Moscow reiterated Gorbachev's commitment to no testings of nuclear weapons and his willingness to carry out mutual reductions up to 50 percent in the superpower arsenals. Washington still adheres to its no testings doctrine. Just now the Kremlin offer is conditional till it is close to a permanent commitment because wt is continually being extended. President Reagan will do well to make a beginning by accepting the Soviet offer, and if he so desires, put to test the substance of Soviet offers.

Haryana Strike Call Evokes 'Mixed Response'

BK230746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] In Haryana, the rasta roko [road blockade] and the bund [strike] call given by the 4-party Sangharsh Samiti [struggle committee] has evoked mixed response. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, while the bund was almost complete at Rohtak and a few other places, it was partial in the rest of the state. Most of the vehicular traffic remained off the road as Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh States transport authorities have decided to suspend bus services in the state.

The spokesman said no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state. The Haryana government has made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order. Eighty companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed at strategic places. A police spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that about 500 preventive arrests have been made throughout the state.

Voilence Flares Up in Ahmadabad; Curfew Imposed

BK221241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Four persons lost their lives and eight were injured in renewed violence in the Kalupur and Dariapur areas in Ahmadabad this afternoon. In the violence which suddenly erupted after 18 days, several incidents of stabbing and stone throwing are reported. According to the city police control, the situation is tense but under control. Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in all the areas under the Kalupur police station from 1400 this afternoon.

Situation 'Tense But Under Control'

BK230314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] In Ahmadabad, peace prevailed in the Kalupur and Dariapur areas, which witnessed sudden disturbance yesterday. The situation is still tense but under control. Meanwhile, adequate police force has been deployed in the areas under indefinite curfew since yesterday afternoon.

Bomb Explosion in Mosque Kills 1, Injures 5

HK230056 Hong Kong AFP in English 0027 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 22 (AFP) — A time bomb exploded in the bathroom of a mosque in the village of Gandahab yesterday killing one person and wounding five others, official sources said today. They believed the bomb has planted by some "saboteur" from neighbouring Afghanistan. The bomb went off when people were coming to the mosque for noon prayers. In a similar incident two days ago one person died and 14 others were wounded.

5 Reported Dead in Airline Office Bomb Blast

HK231242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP) — Five people died and two dozen were injured today, many of them seriously, when a huge bomb blast ripped through the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) office at Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan today, witnesses and hospital sources reported. Reports reaching here said the bomb was planted in the ticketing section of the PIA building which was one of the biggest office complexes in the cantonment area.

The blast during the morning rush hour at 11.00 AM (0600 GMT) set the entire building ablaze and a pall of thick black smoke engulfed the whole area hampering rescue operations, the sources said. Fire fighters struggled for three hours to bring the blaze under control. But sources in Peshawar said the major part of the building, including all PIA facilities and its cargo section were gutted. The impact of the blast was felt several kilometres (miles) away.

The bomb was the biggest in the wave which has gripped the border town since the beginning of this month. Several casualties have been reported in at least half a dozen bomb explosions in and around Peshawar this week.

No arrests have been made so far, but official sources believe the Afghan secret service KHAD is involved, in a bid to harass a population which is sheltering about two million Afghan refugees and several resistance guerrilla groups.

Police have identified as Soviet-made several unexploded bombs and stores of explosive material seized earlier.

This is the first time that an important government run agency office has been made [a] target of the blast. Past attacks were confined to the refugee concentration areas and the offices of rebel groups. Several banks and other offices rented in the building were also damaged in today's blast.

Two years ago at least six Afghan mujahidin died in an explosion at the Hezb-e Eslami group's main office. As a result Pakistani authorities expelled all rebel organisations from the town, shifting their offices to outlying suburbs.

Most of those injured today were PIA staff. Officials have so far confirmed two deaths while unofficial count was five dead and 24 wounded.

President Inaugurates Narcotics Control Conference

BK221440 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan's commitment for the eradication of the drug abuse not only within the country but also outside its frontiers is total and unqualified. He was inaugurating in Islamabad today the third interpol conference of heads of national drug control services in the Gulf area.

The president said as an Islamic country Pakistan is against the production, sale, and use of all intoxicants, including opium and heroin, and considers it its moral duty to eradicate this menace. He asked the participants of the conference to evolve measures firstly on the international front, and secondly on the internal front. He also suggested the formation of a cooperative council of the heads of national drugs control services to adopt tactical measures against this menace and to review the progress periodically. There should also be an expeditious exchange of information through a communication network to provide information about drug traffickers.

Referring to the measures taken by the Pakistan Government in controlling this menace, the president said the production of opium has been brought down to 40 tons as against 800 tons. He said there were 3 million addicts in Pakistan and it is the joint responsibility of the law enforcing agencies, the medical profession, the parents, and every member of the society to make everyone alive to this menace.

PAKISTAN TIMES Comments on Ties With Iran

GF221329 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Jan 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Closer Bonds"]

[Text] The three-day visit of Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Pakistan has given the lie to the propaganda of vested interests that Pak-Iran ties are not as close as they were in the past. The visit has proved beyond doubt that relations between the two countries are as warm as ever and even closer, given the similar security concerns facing them and the new ideological direction that their polities have been given in the past few years.

Iran and Pakistan are equally affected by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and both are unanimous in the stand that a solution to the problem lies in the unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops there.

Similarly, the leaderships in both countries have made a conscious decision to reorder their societies in the light of the teachings of the Koran and Sunna. These affinities could not but create stronger ties between the two peoples, and President Khamene'i's visit came as a concrete evidence of that. The very fact that the Iranian president chose to visit Pakistan on his first foreign tour after re-election speaks volumes for his and Iranian people's feelings for Pakistan. As for the sentiment here for our Iranian brethren, it was eloquently expressed by the enthusiastic

reception accorded to the Iranian president wherever he went during his tour of Pakistan.

The formal talks held between the two sides revealed a complete identity of views on the regional and international issues that came under discussion. Underlining the success of the visit, the Iranian president described it as excellent and noted that the two countries "share common stances and views on international issues and wish to expand their cooperation in economic, political and cultural fields".

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i also came out in full support of the Pakistani stand that the present Kabul regime did not represent the Afghan people and that in any eventual solution they should be conceded the right to decide their future. Both sides also agreed to work together for the stability of the region and co-operate in efforts to strengthen the unity of the Islamic ummah.

On bilateral relations the two leaders reviewed the progress made so far and expressed satisfaction over it. In this context a number of far-reaching decisions have been taken to give greater depth and dimension to two-way cooperation. The three committees set up at the level of the foreign ministers to submit reports in the fields of economic cooperation, agricultural and rural development and cultural collaboration have made specific recommendations. The two countries have also signed a protocol on cultural, educational and sports exchanges.

Similarly placed in relation to regional security concerns and facing common problems in the international sphere, Pakistan and Iran have everything to gain by forging closer bonds in economic, commercial and cultural fields. The Iranian president's visit and the accords that have resulted from it should give bilateral relations exactly the kind of momentum they require for speedier growth in the days to come.

DAWN Reports Entry of Soviets in Khyber Agency

GF22'409 Karachi DAWN in English 20 Jan 86 p 14

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 19: Sources close to Afghan mujahidin have claimed that about 400 Russian officers and soldiers have entered Pakistan's tribal area in collusion with Malik Wali Khan Kukikhel and his followers.

According to these sources, the group of 400 stationed at Jalalabad and Afghan Torkan entered Pakistan on Jan 11 with Kukikhel's men via Goroko and then dispersed all over Tirah and other places in Khyber Agency.

The sources said the famous tribal affairs expert Gen. Sakharov is "handling the operation" with headquarters at Jalalabad. He is monitoring the events in tribal areas of Pakistan while tribal insurgents who recently fled to Afghanistan have been despatched in different parts of Afghanistan to participate in anti-mujahidin activities under Russian command.

About 400 of these tribesmen are already involved in such activities in Helmand Province while another 2,000 have been armed by the Russians, says a mujahidin press release.

French To Discuss Nuclear Reprocessing Plant Sale

GF201007 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Islamabad (special correspondent] — A high-ranking French delegation will arrive in Pakistan on 11 February under the leadership of the secretary general of the Ministry of Energy. The delegation will hold talks on the sale of a nuclear reprocessing plant. During their 2-day stay in Pakistan they will call on President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo.

Pakistan signed an agreement with the previous French regime for the sale of a nuclear reprocessing plant, but that agreement could not be implemented because of international pressure on France. France attached some very difficult conditions to the sale and Pakistan could not accept them. The agreement, therefore, was shelved for years, but talks with the French authorities on the subject continued on various levels.

After the Fes conference Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan held talks with the French foreign minister in connection with the sale, and the visit of the French delegation to Pakistan will follow up those talks. The delegation will include some high-ranking officials in the French Ministry of External Relations.

Neutral observers in Islamabad have expressed the hope that France and Pakistan will work out a mutually acceptable formula under which France will be able to sell the reprocessing plant to Pakistan. These observers believe that the peaceful nuclear policy of Pakistan has been accepted at the international level. Moreover, international pressure on France has also weakened in face of the growing energy needs of Pakistan.

BANGLADESH

Striking Jute Mill Workers Hold Demonstration

HK221314 Hong Kong AFP in 1238 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 22 (AFP) — Several thousand striking jute mill workers today demonstrated outside the headquarters here of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), trade union sources said. The protesters were among nearly a quarter million jute workers on strike since December 28 at 48 of the 69 BJMC-controlled mills, demanding higher wages and benefits. Sources in the jute mill workers' trade union told reporters similar demonstrations were held in other Bangladesh industrial towns today. There was no official confirmation of the numbers involved in today's protest.

Officials said that despite the strike call, at least 26 jute mills were functioning normally. Observers said this appeared to be with the help of pro-government trade unions.

Jute accounts for nearly 60 percent of the country's export earnings and observers here said the continuing strike in the industry might adversely affect the economy. Efforts towards a negotiated settlement have so far failed and the jute workers' unions have resolved to continue the strike until their demands were fully met.

SRI LANKA

British National Abducted by Tamil Guerrillas

BK231109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] A major Tamil guerrilla group said yesterday it had detained a 50-year old British woman in northern Sri Lanka on suspicion of her working for a foreign intelligence agency. In a telephone call to REUTER, a spokesman for the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students — EROS — said the woman identified herself as Penelope Willis and said she was a journalist but did not give the name of a news organization.

According to a police report reaching Colombo, the woman who had sought and obtained a night lodging at St Peter's Church, Mullaitivu, had been seen in a car driven in the direction of Paddiruppu. She was accompanied by five armed terrorists, one of whom was riding on the hood of the car. He was carrying a machinegun. They were now interrogating her and if they find her not involved, they would release her.

Parliament Votes To Extend State of Emergency

BK231351 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Parliament today approved by a two-thirds majority a motion to extend the state of emergency by a further month. One hundred and twenty five members voted in favor of the extension, while the MP for Homagama, Sarath Muttetuyegama, voted against. Members of the SLKFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] and the MEP ['Mahjana Eksath Peramuan] abstained.

Soldier Killed in Tamil Attack on Patrol

HK231002 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 23 (AFP) — One soldier was killed when militant Tamil separatists attacked an Army patrol in northern Jaffna today, security sources here said. High ranking security sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that a helicopter was also hit and one airman wounded when militants opened fire on it in Tellipallai in the Jaffna Peninsula today.

The Army patrol was carrying out an operation when it came under the small arms fire which killed one soldier, they said. The militants also fired on the helicopter which arrived when air support was summoned, hitting the pilot who then flew the chopper back to base. The pilot suffered minor injuries, sources said.

Today's death brings the toll of security forces personnel killed this year to 15, according to the official count.

President Seeks India's Cooperation To End Terrorism

BK221113 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] President Jayewardene has expressed the hope that the menance of terrorism in Sri Lanka would be over in 3 months if the Indian Government extended its support to the Government of Sri Lanka. In an interviw with India's *HINDU* newspaper, Mr Jayewardene reiterated that although the government wanted a political solution to the problem, it could not have a political solution with terrorists. However, he made it clear that the terrorists should be unconditionally pardoned if they laid down their arms.

Mr Jayewardne also said that he would go to India where leading terrorist groups have officers in Madras to talk to them if he were assured that they were giving up violence.

Commentary Reviews Latest Developments in PDRY

GF230718 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Jan 86

[From the "Pause With the Events" program]

[Text] Nearly 10 days have elapsed since the outbreak of bloody fighting in the PDRY and the situation remains engulfed in uncertainty. Daily reports by international news agencies have heightened this uncertainly. While one news agency reports that the situation is returning to normal, at the same time another reports bloody clashes. However, these reports indicate one thing for certain, namely, that the situation in the PDRY continues to be tense and what will happen next cannot be predicted.

Casualty reports strengthen the belief that the clashes are fierce. News agencies report that more than 9,000 people have been killed or wounded. The continuation of these clashes is causing anxiety in neighboring countries, especially the YAR which fears the fighting may spread into its territory. In general, the latest reports coming from Aden indicate that the killing and destruction in the PDRY is continuing. Kuwait radio reported that the ships of Western countries which were docking at Aden port to evacuate foreign nationals from Aden have halted their rescue operations.

Proceeding from its desire to prevent the bloodshed of Muslims, the Islamic Republic has called for an immediate end to the fighting in this country and for stopping the shedding of blood of its people. In its communique which was issued on Tuesday to this effect, the Iranian Foreign Ministry stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is perfectly willing to offer whatever assistance it can to end the fighting in the PDRY. The Red Crescent Society in Iran has contacted the PDRY Red Crescent and declared its readiness to dispatch necessary supplies to aid the wounded.

Reportage, Commentary on President's Afro-Asian Tour

Absence From Banquet Approved

LD221156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Excerpt] During today's Guardians' Council session, council secretary Safi praised President Khamene'i in connection with the banquet held in Zimbabwe in his honor and his refusal to attend due to anti-religious and anti-Islamic programs. Safi said: This represents Islamic stances and the loyalty of officials of this regime to Islamic precepts. It gives pride to all Muslims and is a warning to those heads of regimes in Islamic countries who do not feel obliged to obey Islamic standards.

Concludes Zimbabwe Visit, Departs

LD221101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] President Khamene'i and his entourage departed Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, for Tehran this morning. They were formally seen off by the president and prime minister of Zimbabwe. According to this report, high-ranking party members, Cabinet members, and foreign ambassadors to Zimbabwe attended the ceremonies. Following the two countries' official anthems our country's president was seen off by the president of Zimbabwe.

It must be noted that President Khamene'i held several meetings with the Zimbabwean president and prime minister during his stay in that country. The efforts of various committees in the commercial, technical, and oil fields headed by the foreign minister led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

Returns to Tehran

LD221748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, who has visited a number of Afro-Asian countries leading a delegation of high-ranking political, military and economic officials, returned to Tehran today at the conclusion of his 10-day visit to Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, and his meetings with those countries' presidents and high-ranking authorities. At Mehrabad Airport the president of the Republic was welcomed by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad; the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; a number of ministers; a group of members of the Majlis Presidium; members of the Majlis; commanders of the three armed services of the Islamic Republic of Iran; a group of high-ranking military officials; the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq; and ambassadors of foreign countries to Iran.

During his tour the president of the Republic had talks with the presidents of Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe on the problems of Afghanistan and Palestine, support for Islamic liberation movements, the struggles of the Muslim people of Lebanon, the need for unity to confront the expansionist policies of the arrogant powers, the strengthening of the Zimbabwe common front against racism and the Nonaligned Movement.

Terms Tour 'Satisfactory'

LD221906 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran Jan. 22, IRNA — Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i arrived here Wednesday after a ten-day Afro-Asian countries tour. He was welcomed at Tehran Mehrabad Airport by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and other ranking Iranian officials. The president's ten-day tour took him to Pakistan, Angola, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In an interview with IRNA at the Airport, President Khamene'i described his tour as "satisfactory" and said that the Iranian delegation which accompanied him on his tour signed three protocols with Pakistan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and reached some agreements with Angola and Mozambique.

On the objective of his visit to these states, President Khamene'i termed it "a measure to expand relations between Iran and these countries as well as to establish a strong Islamic Republic of Iran

presence with the African Frontline States in their fight against the apartheid South African regime." The president said that detailed discussions were held on aggressive role of the racist South African regime in his meetings with the frontline heads of states.

On bilateral cooperation with the countries he visited the president said that Iran and Pakistan have many common causes, the most important being their friendly relations which were further expanded by his visit.

The Islamic Republic of Iran prefers to promote its economic and political relations with African countries especially those fighting the South African apartheid regime which President Khamene'i said was a measure to step up the anti-apartheid struggle against the South African Government and as a source of help for African countries.

On the geo-political impact of his tour the president said that the massive reception of people and the governments of the countries visited by him has disappointed the global arraogance which is always trying to isolate Iran.

Submits Report to Khomeyni

LD231124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in a meeting with Imam Khomeyni today submitted a report to the Imam of the Islamic Nation on his visits to Pakistan, Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe.

Comments on Tour

LD230123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Remarks by Iranian President Khamene'i to unidentified Tehran radio correspondent on his return to Tehran from tour of Pakistan and the Frontline States on 22 January; place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My trip to Pakistan was concerned with bilateral relations and the exchange of views on problems of mutual interest. Naturally we have many problems which are of interest to us and Pakistan because of our geographical location and our immense historical and cultural ties, particularly as we are friends with both the Pakistani Government and nation. In other words, the issue of our relations with that nation constitutes a separate and extremely important chapter which was the center of our attention during this visit.

During this visit we met both high-ranking officials of the Pakistani Government and the Pakistani nation. We had talks with them. We had meetings with ulema from all over Pakistan. We made speeches to the people. In other words, the relations which we enjoy with Pakistan are of a dual nature: with its government and with its nation. Of course, the Pakistani Government also fully cooperated with us and helped us to meet with the people and speak to them. I made a speech in Lahore in the presence of Pakistani Government officials which was repeatedly broadcast on both radio and television, thereby providing us with all the facilities for our intellectual communication with the people.

As I have said, there are a great many joint problems which we and the Pakistani Government share and these necessitate closer links. Pakistan is a great neighbor; it is an Islamic country and its people's beliefs are very strong. The interest in Islamic problems in Pakistan's general climate as a whole, whether on the government or national level, is very intense. All this necessitates close ties, so we acted accordingly. God willing! Our relations will improve markedly after this trip. We have had talks on trade exchanges, technical issues, and cultural problems. Agreements were signed, a memorandum of understanding was also signed, and another agreement was signed by the foreign ministers. So this is what the visit to Pakistan was like.

As to the Frontline States, apart from problems related to bilateral relations which were of secondary importance, the main problem discussed was that of the struggle against the apartheid regime, and the racism and oppression imposed by South Africa. This extremely oppressive and vicious regime is considered to be one of the fundamental links of world arrogance in this region.

During this trip in the extensive and all-round meetings we had with the leaders of these countries, we explained our views, analyses, and opinions on South Africa and its role in carrying out the needs of world arrogance and in weakening all the nations of Africa, not only the South African people. We explained all these views to them and declared that we are prepared to cooperate with them on this issue. They ardently welcomed this and felt that Iran and the Islamic revolution constitutes the ultimate strategic depth [as heard] in the struggle against the racist South African regime. They were extremely hopeful about the moral, political, and all-round support from our country. Of course, they all knew and admitted that in this struggle, we have always stood in the frontlines on political issues, international assemblies, and at a global level. Of course, we talked extensively about these issues and obtained very good results from these discussions. But bilateral relations are also important with these countries on two accounts: First, these countries are in the frontline of the movement of struggle against the South African regime. In Angola, for instance, as you may be aware, a large expanse of several thousand kilometers of Angolan territory is occupied by the South African regime; Namibia is completely under occupation; Mozambique is constantly under threat; and even in Zimbabwe which has a relatively stable and better situation, Mr Mugabe, its leaders and other admitted that they are under threat from various kinds of intrusions by the South African regime.

Well, these countries form the frontlines of the movement, and if we can strengthen them through our commercial relations and other bilateral relations, then we would be making an effective contribution to the struggle against the South African regime. Second, we have given priority in the general policy of the Islamic Republic's Government to commercial exchanges with oppressed countries. This means that we are willing to sell our oil to those who are very much in need of this oil and are oppressed; that we

will sell the goods we produce to these kinds of states; and that we should definitely buy their goods — these are among our priorities and we intend to implement them. We would prefer to buy for instance, commodities produced in Mozambique, Tanzania, or Zimbabwe and not from a European country or perhaps a wealthy country which may not really need our help. If we buy locally produced goods directly from the countries concerned then the benefits will go directly to their peoples. These are nations that have become independent only recently and are constantly under pressures from the military, political, and all-round intrusions of the South African regime. They must be helped. Therefore, commercial relations — indeed bilateral relations as a whole, whether commercial, technical, political, or cultural — with these states, in addition to assisting in the struggle against the South African regime, will actually help those states themselves. This is one of our duties, and we declare this everywhere. They warmly welcomed this policy. These were the objectives and the programs we had during this trip.

Of course, I myself had many meetings, as did Dr Velayati with his counterparts. Also, in all these countries various committees were set up to discuss the matters at hand. With three out of five of the main countries of this trip — those three countries with which we have more extensive dealings — that is, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, we signed letters of understanding with good results. In the other two countries we reached mutual understanding on many items. There you have an outline of the programs of the trip.

You asked about the media coverage of our trip. During the trip we did not have much time or opportunity to examine the world's coverage and what was reported and how; you probably followed it more eagerly and know more; people here probably know more. Yet on the whole, it was felt that our presence in Africa was seen as a message of hope for the people of southern Africa — especially the Muslims in those regions. They were jubilant at the fact that a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran notices them, considers their problems important and also sympathetic to them. Of course, I do not have much information from within southern Africa itself and cannot say what effect our tour had on them, but as far as we gathered from those people who were (?informed) about South Africa and came from there, I know that there was extensive media coverage. Last night we gave an all-media interview in Zimbabwe and said quite clearly — I said: I am declaring right now, from behind the walls and borders of southern Africa, that the people and government of the Islamic Republic are standing beside these oppressed people who are being trampled upon under by the South African regime. We are defending you, supporting you, and we condemn your enemy. This certainly had a strong, psychological impact on the people of that region. The same could be said for the people of Pakistan, that is, the people of Pakistan received us and dealt with us like our own people: In the same way that the people of our country express kindness, enthusiasm and excitement toward those in charge of the country, the Pakistanis were also affected in the same way. All these things have a negative effect on the morale of the policies of world arrogance. We can sense that those who would like to see the Islamic Republic of Iran take a a back seat in the various arenas of world politics are certainly not very happy and some of the news that reached us from the circles of world arrogance confirmed this.

Majlis Speaker Meets Military Officials, Teachers

LD201137 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA — The Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said here Sunday that the "ten-day dawn" ceremonies, marking the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, "will be the time to show our power". Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani was speaking to a group of commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and the officials in charge of the maneuver of the Basij (Mobilization) forces during the ten-day dawn.

The Majlis speaker talked about the high number of people volunteering to join Karbala caravans to fight against the Iraqi forces.

On vicious acts of enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that it would be naive to think that Iraq has run out of missiles or has dropped the idea of raiding the Iranian cities due to shortage of planes. Rather, he added, those who have been encouraging Saddam to carry out such attacks, have finally realised that all these actions are futile. The enemies have understood, he told the visitors, that no weapon or power could stand against the will of the Iranians and none of these actions will weaken determination of committed people of Iran.

On mobilization of people in Karbala caravans, he said that formation of these caravans made the enemy to refrain from further attacking our cities and economic centers. The least effect of the Karabala caravans, he said, was halting vicious acts of the enemy.

More on the effects of the Karbala caravans, he said that the enemy in future will realize that these volunteers who have joined the caravans will stay with them until the achievement of final result.

Rafsanjani who is also the special representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defence Council, said that the unprecedented number of people joining the caravans has frightened the enemy. The enemy knows that there is no end to the power of the Iranian forces and no limit to the number of volunteers. The whole nation is behind the volunteers, he stressed.

Meanwhile in a separate meeting with representatives of teachers from throughout the country, here Sunday evening, the Majlis speaker talked about the Islamic values which have become popular among the youth in post-revolutionary period. He described the trend as excellent and said great steps have been taken in this respect.

He further told the visitors that the enemies of the Islamic revolution of Iran have admitted the success of the Islamic revolution in transforming the society and replacing the old corrupt values with supreme principles of Islam.

Revival of Islamic values has frightened the Zionist regime which is faced with spread of Islamic ideology in occupied Palestine. The same principles in Lebanon have given momentum to the strrggle of the Lebanese Muslims and motivated by such aspirations, a soldier in Egypt undermines the Camp David accord.

At the end he told the teachers that a great responsibility rested on their shoulders. He urged them to make further efforts to cleanse the society from the ills which were introduced to the Iranian society under the previous regime, and also prevent their return.

Musavi Addresses Police Graduation Ceremony

LD182353 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 86

[Excerpts] A graduation ceremony marking the end of the 38th course of the Police Academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held in the presence of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. During the ceremony, the prime minister listened to the progress report and then inspected the units positioned in the grounds.

Mr Musavi made a speech in which he elaborated on the duties of the police and their role in society. He said: The only regime in the Third World that has revolted against colonialist powers, that has not aligned itself with any of the superpowers, and that has stood up to the bullying and oppression of these powers is the Islamic Republican regime. The prime minister referred to the fact that the security of reactionary countries, which are dependent on Zionism, imperialism, and the East or the West, is maintained by the superpowers and colonialists. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country whose national security is protected by the children of the nation and which relies on the popular forces. He added: Today, the children of this nation defend the honor and wealth of the country and do not accept the agreements reached by the superpowers in secret. They have become models for humanity and the deprived and oppressed nations.

At the end of this ceremony, participating units paraded in front of the holy Koran, a picture of the imam of the nation, the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and those present on the rostrum.

Tehran Views 'Netback' Pricing As Test for OPEC

GF211003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Commentary by the Research Group of the Central News Unit: "OPEC Facing a Dangerous Test"]

[Text] Contrary to the predictions of oil circles and the tradition of the world oil market, it seems that this year is not a good one for oil exporting countries, especially OPEC members. The oil market is not the satisfactory condition.

Despite being the cold season, during the past few weeks we have witnessed worrying developments in the international oil market. The downward trend of prices, which started more or less after the 76th OPEC meeting, has picked up speed noticeably since the start of the current new Gregorian year. According to reports received on Friday, 17 January, on the spot commodity market in Europe, the price for Brent crude oil from the North Sea due to be delivered in March dropped to $21 per barrel. This kind of oil sold for about $27 per barrel at this time last year.

The significant decline in the prices of various types of North Sea crude affects some OPEC members, who have similar types of oil, and has caused a slight drop in the prices of oil from the Persian Gulf. On Friday, 17 January, Saudi light crude fell to $27.20 per barrel, which was a slight decline compared to prices of the previous few weeks. In the midst of this, oil analysts believe that with a decline in oil prices to this extent, especially during the cold season, it is very probable that prices will fall even further in March and April.

Despite the obvious elements such as a mild winter in the northern hemisphere, high strategic stockpiles of oil in the West, and the lesser demand for oil from the major oil refiners in the world, which have all had their share in the creation of this state of affairs in the present oil market, there are other important factors that have to be taken into consideration.

One ox these important factors is more-than-necessary production by OPEC members and other oil exporting countries in the world. According to various reports, there is currently a surplus of 3.3 million barrels per day of oil on the market. This comes at a time when it was believed the market was only faced with a 2-million-barrels-per-day surplus. In its latest issue the OPEC News Bulletin announced the organization's oil production to be some 17.6 million barrels per day during December and January. Of course, this figure is in addition to 1.35 million barrels per day of liquid natural gas.

Taking into consideration the slight rise in the production levels of some oil exporting countries, it has been announced that at the beginning of the present Gregorian year, 1986, Saudi Arabia raised its normal production quota by a significant amount. According to REUTER, Saudi oil production in the first week of January was 6 million barrels per day, and the Zionist regime ruling Iraq was also producing extra oil through its new oil pipeline. In connection with this development, that is, the rise in production in general and the deviations from OPEC regulations by its members, OPEC has been faced with some problems. In reality, it has never managed to solve these issues. But what is certain is that OPEC must immediately make a decision with regard to its members' overproduction. Otherwise OPEC itself will cause a further decline in the prices.

The announcement of a reduction in prices from some non-OPEC producers, such as Mexico, Oman, and Egypt has also had an effect on the present situation in the world oil market. Egypt has lowered its prices by $1.00-1.35 per barrel, and Mexico has reduced its prices by $1.00 per barrel since the first of January. Venesuela, which is an OPEC member, has also reduced its prices for heavy crude. But according to most analysts, the major cause of the current chaos in the world oil market is the rise in oil-sale contracts with OPEC members based on the recovered oil prices.

Comtracts based on recovered oil prices, which are called net-backs in international terminology, are in reality the net value recovered from the refining of one barrel of crude oil, which is mostly made up of the difference between the value of the unrefined product and the collection of the expenses from transportation, insurance, refinery costs, etc. In other words, when people say sales according to netback, it means the basis

on which each barrel of crude oil is priced depends on the price of the products on that particular day, for example on the Rotterdam market.

In general, the netback price is $3.00-4.00 less than the contract prices of the spot commodities market.

Up until a couple of years ago, the recovered price was only the basis for determining the quality of the various types of crude oil in the world. Since then, however, some new contracts have been based on the recovered price, and with the spreading of this practice gradually oil sales based on recovered prices were presented to the oil market as a new method of transactions. This has reached the point that now a major percentage of world oil sales are based on this method.

The spreading of transactions based on recovered prices is in reality a dangerous test for OPEC. The pricing policy for various types of oil products in the world is now up to the oil companies because most of the world's refineries belong to them. Therefore OPEC's tendency to depend on sales based on recovered prices has in effect taken control of pricing throughout the world out of OPEC's hands and has given that control to the international oil companies. Under these circumstances, it is the oil cartels that decide OPEC's prices.

In general terms, a sale in accordance with recovered prices means more discounts for the customers because, as mentioned before, the recovered oil prices, within the past few years, have always been lower than the formal and spot market commodity prices.

The most important factor in the spreading of sales in accordance with recovered prices in the past few months has unfortunately been OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia. Following the significant drop in its production, Saudi Arabia decided to bring its production levels to its OPEC quota, but was confronted at the time with confusion in the oil market. This is why it started selling its oil based on recovered prices. It even suggested that OPEC accept this system. Saudi is now selling some 2 million barrels of oil based on recovered prices. Also, the regime ruling Iraq is busy negotiating with French companies to consolidate netback contracts.

Under such circumstances, one must warn OPEC members that the spreading of oil sales based on recovered prices will have more pronounced effects in the long run than in a short period. If OPEC accepts this pricing policy formally, there will no longer be a need for such an organization. Was OPEC not supposed to control prices and have a hand in the pricing system for oil in the world? Was this not why it was created in the first place? In any case, with regard to what has been said, the situation of the world oil market is very worrisome. If something drastic is not done, a price war and a significant drop in oil prices will be certain.

Therefore oil analysts are waiting for the decisions of OPEC's special committee meeting which is supposed to start 2 weeks from now in Vienna. During its 76th session OPEC asked this committee to find ways to prevent a lessening of OPEC's role in the market. But until it becomes clear what methods and means this committee will use to achieve its goal, one cannot give a concrete opinion on its role.

Discussions Held With Japan on Oil, Industrial Ties

LD221740 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 22, IRNA — Japan's ambassador to Tehran Yutaka Nomura discussed issues of bilateral interest with Iran's commerce minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here Wednesday. The ambassador said that companies belonging to Japan's private sector are interested in expanding commercial relations with Iran. Japan is also interested in purchasing more Iranian oil, he added.

Commerce Minister Ja'fari expressed interest that Iran-Japan commercial relations would expand. Ja'fari said other than Japan's cooperation in implementing some projects in Iran, the country will purchase its necessary industrial goods from Japan.

Envoy to Libya Meets With Al-Turayki on Cooperation

LD220957 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jan. 22, IRNA — Libya's Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki here Tuesday stressed further expansion and deepening of cooperation of the three Muslim and progressive countries of Iran, Libya and Syria. Speaking in a meeting with Iran's ambassador to Libya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, the Libyan official praised support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Libya vis-a-vis recent U.S. threats. He said that Iran's decisive stance, inspired by Islamic principles, further encouraged Libyan people to increase their resistance against plots of imperialism and Zionism.

Referring to the recent session of the foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization, Al-Turayki hailed the active role of the Iranian delegation in the meeting. He reiterated Libya's support for Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war and discussed with the Iranian ambassador matters of mutual interest, latest developments in the region, and the situation in South Yemen.

Ambassador to Hungary Says Ties Expanding

LD221135 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — The Iranian Ambassador to Budapest, Hungary, Ali Akbar Farazi, said here Wednesday that volume of trade between the two countries in post-revolution period has increased by five folds. Speaking in an interview, he added that relations between the two countries were expanding and added that the invitation extended to Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi by Hungarian officials will further strengthen bilateral ties.

Farazi who is currently in Tehran, elaborating more on mutual ties said that the joint commission holds regular meetings in capitals of the two countries and the Iranian delegation to the commission is headed by the minister of agriculture, 'Ali 'Abbas Zali.

Iran and Hungary cooperate in the fields of agricultural technology, training agricultural personnel, fisheries, and other agricultural and industrial grounds. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, exports some one million barrels of oil to Hungary annually. Hungary also imports minerals, herbs and shoes from Iran.

Supreme Court President Holds Press Conference

LD201219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Jan 86

[Text] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, Supreme Court president today took part in a press, radio, and tv conference and commented on the problems of the judicial branch, arable land, and the Islamization of laws. The Supreme Court president in this conference first pointed to reactions to the trip of President Khamene'i to Pakistan and several African countries and the unprecedented welcome extended by the people of these countries to him. He said: This trip showed that the Islamic revolution has been exported to points beyond the borders of our country and there is hope that in the near future, Third World and Islamic nations will stage a general uprising in order to fight against world oppression.

Referring to the efforts made by the judicial branch to Islamize laws and solve problems within this branch, Mr Musavi-Ardabili said: Unfortunately, one of our problems in the judicial branch is the problem of arable land. We hope that the laws the courts need will be passed by the majlis so that we can take steps to protect farmers.

He then pointed to the recent circular [that stipulates plaintiffs must reside in Iran] issued by the Supreme Judicial Council and the reasons behind it and said: Unfrotunately, in some cases we have seen that for example, a member of the Elqanian family [one of the influential and wealthy families in the previous regime] has filed a complaint against the Foundation for the Oppressed in connection with his illegal rights, or that someone who is being prosecuted by the court investigating cases under Article 49 of the Constitution has started procedures against an institution of the Islamic Republic in another court. We have repeatedly witnessed that lawyers have prepared petitions against a department, although their defendent has been a Taquti [a supporter of the former regime] who has not been in Iran at the time. In some isntances they have even won their cases in the absence of the defendent. Such issues gave rise to the abovementioned circular. He added: We have seen the positive results of the circular since it was issued, so much so that some petitions which might have succeeded, have been withdrawn.

The Supreme Court president added: I should mention that the said circular also applies to petitions presented to courts before it was issued and are at present being processed. Even if the preliminary courts have issued their verdicts and the file is referred to the Supreme Court of the country, the Supreme Court should adjust the petition. In cases where even the Supreme Court has issued its verdict as well, the verdict should be implemented fully [as heard].

Mr Musavi-Ardabili finally replied to the questions put to him by correspondents about profiteering and steps taken by the judicial branch in this connection and about the presence of brothers from revolution committees on the borders to fight against smugglers.

Courts Confiscate Land, Investigate Profiteering

LD202152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Excerpts] This morning Naser Qavami, the head of the Islamic Revolution Courts of Justice for Economic and 49th Constitutional Principle Affairs, announced in an interview with the media that during the past 3 months the courts have issued confiscation orders for property worth more than 30 billion rials. The above had been uncovered in the course of investigations about 1,000 cases by the Islamic Revolution Courts of Justice. He then noted the issue of disused land adding: We are aware that a huge profit is made from the sale of land. The profit must be returned.

The head of the 49th Constitutional Principle Courts of Justice also added: Another point in view of the 49th principle is that of the huge wealth gained by the members of corrupt Free Masons Party [as heard]. The allegiance of these persons with foreigners is certain and they have not been investigated so far. He referred to investigations of bribery and extortion cases saying: The courts have been investigating such cases and already confiscated some property in this connection.

Supreme Judicial Council, Cabinet Hold Session

LD201234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Jan 86

[Excerpt] At the joint session of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Cabinet held this morning, common issues facing the judicial and executive systems were discussed. At the end of the session, Mr Moqtada'i, a member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, said in an interview with correspondents: At this session antidrug operations, reports on the workings of the judicial system, conditions of the prisoners, and a report of statistics and discoveries [as heard] were discussed. Problems that have been hindering progress were also reviewed.

He also said that at this session various plans and suggestions were put forward, and it was decided that a joint supreme delegation, comprising two members from the Supreme Judicial Council, the prime minister, minister of information, minister of interior, and minister of justice, should be formed next week to study the plans and choose the most favorable one. He said this delegation will establish a headquarters to implement the plan; and, if need be, relevant bills will be drafted and presented to the Majlis.

The speaker of the Supreme Judicial Council said that relations between government departments and the administrative justice tribunal and verdicts issued by the tribunal regarding the reemployment of those who had been purged were also discussed at today's session. It was decided that a number of test cases should be referred to the council so that necessary steps can be taken.

Kurdish Operations in Iraq Reported

21 Jan Report

GF211952 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries attacked the Mahmud post on the Irbil-Mosul road in northern Iraq killing 12 of its Saddamist mercenaries and capturing their weapons. This was stated by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq information unit which said that a rescue force was sent to the area by the Zionist-Ba'thist authorities. The revolutionaries killed more mercenaries of the Saddam regime during clashes with the rescue force and destroyed 10 tanks of this regime.

Reports said that this attack was launched in retaliation for the recent shelling by the Iraqi regime forces of 100 housing units in the village of Khani, 10 km from al-Sulaymaniah.

22 Jan Report

GF221541 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] On 19 January, Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries belonging to the Hizballah Peshmerga attacked with medium-range weapons the Kardasur base belonging to the Saddam forces in the Mirgah Su-Diyanah axis, killing or wounding more than 15 members of the base. During this attack, they also destroyed several concentration points belonging to the 'Aflaqi regime ruling in Iraq.

Reports from Iraq state that during the past few days the Hizballah Peshmerga warded off with their anti-aircraft fire the aggressive regime's helicopters in the liberated zones of (Kers) and (Shuqrafa) heights, Shirin, and Baradust. These reports added that in the liberated zones, the Peshmerga and all of the tribal forces have been mobilized to thwart any attack that might be launched by the forces of the Zionist Ba'thist regime ruling in Iraq against the liberated villages and areas in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries warned the 'Aflaqi regime's mercenaries that they will shell their positions if they cooperate with the Saddam regime or participate in any operation against the liberated villages in northern Iraq.

Further Details

LD221810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish Muslim fighters in the township of Garmiau in northern Iraq ambushed and destroyed a number of vehicles belonging to the Saddam regime killing five of the passengers including three operatives of Saddam's security organization. According to a report published by *RAH-E KARBALA'* during the operations, 18 men also surrendered to the revolutionaries.

According to another report Iraqi Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries planted mines in the main Tuz Khurmatu highway and destroyed two Iraqi army military trucks and their passengers.

During the past week too the Kurdish Muslim fighters attacked the Dukan barracks in northern Iraq and inflicted heavy losses and casualties. During these operations large quantities of various types of weapons were captured by the Muslim forces.

Attack Last Week

GF221930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] The Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries carried out a number of operations in the city of Garmiyan, in northern Iraq, against the forces of the ruling regime in Iraq. The revolutionaries killed or wounded 11 members of those forces. Among those killed were three security men. This was reported by the publication *TARIQ KARBALA'*. The publication also stated that 18 members of the Saddamist regime surrendered to the Muslim revolutionaries during this operation.

In other operations carried out by the Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries along the main Tuz Khurmatu road in northern Iraq, the revolutionaries destroyed two military trucks, killed five Saddamists, and captured one of the local mercenaries.

The Muslim Iraqi Kurdish revolutionaries attacked Dukan military camp, in northern Iraq, last week. They killed or wounded a number of Saddamists. They also destroyed a number of vehicles and captured large amounts of arms and ammunition.

GDR Experts Helping Iraq in Chemical Research

LD221904 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 22 Jan 86

["Iraq Producing Lethal Chemicals to Exterminate Dissidents" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — With the assistance of East German experts, the Iraqi regime is reportedly trying to produce a brand of lethal chemical capable of killing its victims without leaving any objective symptoms on their bodies, according to the news bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) here Wednesday. The chemicals are said to be designed primarily for killing political dissidents in Iraq.

The SAIRI news bureau said that the Iraqi secret police-run institute Ibn al-Heitham, 30 kms from Baghdad, which is working under the cover of a pharmaceutical company, is working on the deadly chemical.

Following the recent publication of reports in Western press media and protest by various international circles on mass execution of Iraqi dissidents by the Baghdad government, the Iraqi regime has chosen a more sinister method of murder by poisoning, the news bureau said.

The SAIRI news bureau further outlined the mysterious death of anti-government people including that of the one-time Iraqi prime minister and later Baghdad's ambassador to Finland, Salih

Mehdi Ammash. The Finnish dailies published detailed reports on Ammash's death by poisoning. The Scandinavian dailies too, recently published reports on the poisoning of a 30-year-old Iraqi youth hospitalized in Stockholm, according to the news bureau.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,358

LD221611 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA — At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in Sumar, western fronts and a group of Iraqi patrols were subjected to Iranian artillery fire on Tuesday according to the communique number 2358 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran released Wednesday. The Iraqi patrols were forced to flee from the region.

On Tuesday Iran's Muslim combatants while checking Iraqi operations shelled their positions in the southern and north-western fronts Tuesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, according to the communique.

Meanwhile, Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Khorramshahr and Abadan, both in Khuzestan Province, Tuesday caused small damage to some buildings in the two cities.

Tehran Reports Afghan Mujahidin Operations

GF220850 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have destroyed a tank and killed five troops of the Soviet forces in an operation in the (Agaman) area near Kabul.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have also attacked a base belonging to the Karmal regime's forces in Qandahar Province, killing 12 soldiers of the Babrak Karmal regime.

Other Operations

LD221852 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] London, Jan. 22, IRNA — Afghan freedom fighters repulsed two attacks of the Karmal troops in Qandahar Province as a result of which 18 mujahidin were martyred and 34 others were injured.

The agency Afghan press [as received] sources reported that the Soviet-Karmal troops launched an attack on the mujahidin's centre close to the sub divisional headquarters of Chehar Bagh on December 28.

As a result of the sudden attack the mujahidin commander Major Abdus Sattar was martyred while the centre's installations received a lot of damage. According to the report the Soviet Karmal troops were withdrawing when the mujahidin groups blocked their way and encircled them.

In the crossfire 30 Soviet Karmal's troops were killed or injured while 11 mujahids were martyred. In the clash two tanks were destroyed by rocket fire.

According to another report a contingent of Karmal militia launched an attack on a centre of Hizb-e Islami in Shurabak area on December 31 and as a result of the shelling six mujahids were martyred and 14 others were injured.

In the clash continuing the whole of the day the invading army fled away picking up 19 dead bodies and leaving behind wreckage of two vehicles.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

A YSP Political Bureau statement broadcast by Aden radio praised the "revolutionary alertness" of YSP members in civil and military establishments, expressing gratitude to all those who confronted "the coupist attempt perpetrated by the conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad." The Political Bureau said it is in "complete control" of the situation, adding that security, stability, and normal life are being restored. The radio also broadcast a message to the Political Bureau from YSP members at Aden University, who denounced the 'Ali Nasir Muhammad regime for opening the internal market to the "allurements of capitalist consumer goods" and promoting the spread of bribery, favoritism, and other corrupt practices. The "imperialist media" support for 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and animosity toward the YSP Political Bureau clearly show 'Ali Nasir's involvement with "imperialists and reactionaries," the message maintained..

In Moscow, the PDRY premier and foreign minister confirmed their support for 'Ali Nasir's opponents in an interview with the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* cited by WAKH. They stated that former Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il is still alive and in control of the situation in Aden, disclosing that Isma'il has accepted an invitation to talks in Moscow while Chairman 'Ali Nasir has not yet answered the invitation. Paris Radio Monte Carlo, however, reported the "readiness" and the forces opposing to accept. *AL-ITTIHAD also cited reports from Sanaa that fierce fighting* erupted in the Lahij area 23 January and that 'Ali Nasir has mobilized 40,000 men to regain positions controlled by his opponents in Aden and Lahij. Nevertheless, 'Ali Nasir's envoy to Damascus called for an immediate cease-fire in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Damascus radio noted that the envoy, Anis Yahya, discussed the current "regrettable events" in the PDRY during a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. Discussions in Sanaa between the YAR and Djibouti presidents also focused on the PDRY situation, according to Sanaa radio.

Among eyewitness accounts of the situation in Aden, the French ambassador said after his evacuation that the city is litteredwith corpses and the wreckage of 120 tanks, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The ambassador also noted the acute lack of water, electricity, food, and medicine in the capital.

Libya

Reacting to the Pentagon announcement of U.S. maneuvers off the Libyan coast, JANA accused the United States of "power mania." Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had earlier stressed in an interview with *AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI* that Libya will attempt to shoot down any U.S. aircraft that enters Libyan airspace, adding that Libya will strike anyone who violates its waters or airspace.

For the Soviet Union's part, TASS viewed the U.S. maneuvers off the Libyan coast as an "unconcealed provocation" and as an attempt to escalate military tension.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, attacked Khark Island, and launched a "devastating" raid on oil pipelines near Ganaveh, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iranian Oil Ministry official told IRNA that the Ganaveh raid caused minor damage to an oil pipeline but said that Iranian oil exports would not be affected.

OPEC

The price of crude oil could fall below $15 per barrel unless non-OPEC countries reach an agreement with OPEC on limiting oil production, Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani warned in an OPECNA report cited by AFP. Yamani said such a price reduction would have "adverse and dangerous consequences for the whole world economy," the report added. Meanwhile, Iran called on OPEC members to boycott Britain and Norway "for slashing oil prices in the world market," according to an IRNA interview with Iranian deputy Oil Minister Hoseyn Kazempur Ardabili. Ardabili also critized some OPEC countries for "being instrumental" in bringing down prices and assailed Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Nigeria for violating OPEC Quota and supply rules.

Pakistan

An explosion in a Pakistan International Airlines building in Peshawar killed 3 people and injured about 24 others, Karachi radio reported, adding that the government has launched an investigation into the incident.

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Presidium Member Meets With Foreign Journalists

LD210033 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Text] A large number of reporters and journalists from some socialist countries, India, Sweden, the United States, Britain, Japan, the FRG and Finland arrived in Kabul and interviewed Abdorrahim Hatef, member of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and chairman of the DRA National Fatherland Front [NFF] Central Council this afternoon.

In the course of a detailed conversation, Abdorrahim Hatef informed the foreign journalists about the ever-increasing activities of the NFF and said that more than 760,000 people are mobilized today in the ranks of the NFF throughout the country in more than 9,500 councils toward realizing the aspirations of the revolution.

Abdorrahim Hatef described the important role of the front as the greatest revolutionary heart of the country in defending the homeland, revolution and people and an example of the participation of all groups and strata of all tribes and nationalities of the country in the country's socio-political life.

In reply to a question by the ISI of India concerning the broadening activity in progress toward expanding the social basis of revolution, he spoke and shed light on the broadening of the DRA Revolutionary Council and its Presidium. He said that a large number of non-party persons have been included in these organs and for the first time a respected religious leader has been elected to the vice-presidency of the Revolutionary Council.

He also told the foreign journalists about the activities of border militias and self defense groups. Abdorrahim Hatef said that at the present tens of thousands of our compatriots throughout the country have raised arms and are engaged in defending their lives, property, family, the homeland and revoltuion and in defending what the revolution has brought to the people as gift.

He added that the role of the NFF in the country's socio-political life has been increased and just a few days ago dozens of candidates of the NFF were elected to the membership of the highest state organ of the DRA, the DRA Revolutionary Council and its Presidium, the majority of whom are non-party men.

In reference to the election of the local organs of the state power and administration, Hatef said that the front plays a very important and active role in the election. At this very moment hundreds of candidates of the front have been elected to the membership of the councils of the people's representatives, have occupied the highest state posts in localities and are actively engaged in political and social tasks.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent report the foreign journalists went to the Watan nursery today and spoke with children who lost their families and parents as a result of the savageries of the counterrevolutionary elements. Journalists were welcomed by the children chanting the slogan: We are the sons of our homeland and singing revolutionary songs.

Sher Aqa, a 10-year old child from the Parwan Province spoke with an FRG journalist and said that as a result of the sincere attention paid to us by the party and government, I have forgotten the pain of losing my family. I live now in the folds of the party and state and in this common family, as in my own family and even better than that. We are all alike. Our parents have been eliminated by the rebels in the most savage manner.

According to another report the foreign journalists this afternoon held a comprehensive conversation with 'Abdorrashid Waziri, the deputy minister of the Minsitry of Tribal and Nationalities Affairs in that ministry.

Waziri spoke in detail about the historical and geographical characteristics of the regions inhabited by tribes and clans and emphasized the role of tribes as an unbreakable fortress of defending independence against the aggression and intervention of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism.

In reply to a question from the Japanese corresondent concerning the return of refugees to the homeland, the deputy minister of tribal and nationalities affairs said that the majority of those who, under the unprecedented pressure of imperialist propaganda, are away from their homes, want to utilize the amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and return to the folds of the motherland. They want to get away from the clutches of the Pakistani prison guards and the armed counter-revolution — those places called refugee camps.

In answer to a question by the REUTER representative concerning the situations in the tribal areas, the aggression of the militarists army and its dreadful dealing with the innocent tribal people, 'Abdor Rashid Waziri said that the tribal people, due to their historical and national characteristics, are armed and consider weapons as their honor and means for defending their dignity and freedom.

The groups of journalsits arrived in Kabul today at the invitation of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The journalists, who come from the GDR, the CSSR, the Peoples Republic of Poland, India, Finland, Japan, the United States, Sweden, Italy, the FRG, Kuwait and Britain, will familiarize themselves with the truth of the revolution and the great revolutionary events taking place in the country and will meet with responsible officials of organs and various social organs.

Soviets Resort to Air Transport for Afghan Trade

OW220049 Tokyo KYODO in English 0015 GMT 22 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad Jan. 21 Kyodo — The Soviet Union is using transport planes for trade with Afghanistan, because of frequent attacks by Afghan mujahideen guerrillas on convoys using the vital Kabul- Slanag highway, western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources said that the heavy traffic of Soviet Il-26 transport planes into Kabul continued last week. The diplomats counted 22 such flights from January 10 to 19.

They said the Soviet transport planes were obviously being used to airlift essential goods whose supply overland has been hindered

by the resistance attacks. They noted that price of flour in Kabul increased 27 percent recently and other items of daily use like cooking oil, sugar and gasoline, continue to be in short supply.

The western diplomatic sources also reported the abduction of two Afghan women during a search operation by Soviet-Afghan troops in a village in Paghman district last Thursday. Seven afghans who resisted the kidnap were shot down on the spot, they said.

Reports on Recent Fighting, Operations

Baghran, Chahar Ashab District

LD202232 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Text] Quoting a source in the country's security forces, a Bakhtar correspondent reports that as a result of the successful operations by the country's security forces in the village of Deh-i Mulla, Baghran district, a counterrevolutionary leader belonging to a Jamiat band was captured. Some medicine, rocket launchers and a number of explosives were seized from him.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations carried out yesterday by the security forces (Abbas Kala) of Chahar Asiab district, Kabol province, 22 surface-to-surface rockets came to the hands of the country's security forces.

109 Rebels 'Crushed'

LD231633 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 jan 86

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a responsible source in the security forces, recently reports that as a result of successful operations by the DRA security forces in the Golran, Kohestan, and Zendajan districts, Herat province, 109 armed rebels were crushed and 46 were wounded. One DSHK, 1 ZK-1, 2 rocket launchers, 34 assorted weapons, 44 antitank mines, 39 mortar mines, 8,800 rounds of assorted ammunition, 3,360 rounds of DSHK ammunition, 1 Japanese radio communication unit, and 10 U.S. walkie-talkies were seized from these criminals.

Also during the operations 4 DSHKS, 4 mortars, 3 recoilless guns, 57 assorted weapons, 5 caches of equipment, 3 food stores, 2 trucks, and several enemy hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report during a successful operation carried out by the country's security forces in the Khwaja Gogerdak and [name indistinct] areas, 18 armed rebels were crushed and 9 were wounded. Six rocket launchers together with 66 rounds, DSHK together with 600,000 rounds, one DPT [expansion unknown] machinegun; 1 heavy machinegun and 39 assorted weapons, 14 hand grenades, 51,000 rounds of kalashnikov ammunition, 54 shells for recoilless guns, 87 mortar shells, antipersonnel mines, 4 antitank mines, 3 boxes of medicine, 1 typewriter, 5 trucks and cars and 1 tractor were seized by the security forces.

Tori, Kurm Region Actions

LD220922 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0444 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 21, BAKHTAR — Difference between the free tribes of Tori, Wazir and Kurm Regions and the Afghan counter-revolution are getting intensified and they are pushing their demand for the expulsion of the counter-revolution from their regions. The reports reaching here say that the people of Kurm Region have asked Pakistani authorities to withdraw as soon as possible the counter-revolution from their regions but the Pakistani authorities are not prepared to accept their demands.

The report adds that the youth of Tori have taken practical actions against the counter-revolution by attacking on them or conducting explosions.

The youth of Tori region have launched armed attack on the Afghan counter-revolution in Kurm region as a result of which five counter-revolutionaries were killed and four were injured.

They have also blasted explosions in several areas of Kurm Region as well as in vehicles carrying arms and ammunitions towards the border of the DRA as aresult of which over 40 miscreants were killed, about 20 were seriously injured and their ammunitions on the vehicles were destroyed.

According to another report, an explosion was carried out by unknown persons in a cinema of Peshawar City as a result of which 25 counter-revolutionaries were killed and a number of people were injured. This is the fourth explosion in a week in that city.

Another explosion has taken place in Bajawar which has caused the death of three persons. The reason for the explosions are due to the ever-increasing differences between the Afghan counter-revolutionary bands, the report says.

Armed Group Surrenders

LD202033 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jan 86

[Text] An armed group of 12 men previously belonging to the Jamiat gang, has recently surrendered to the security forces in the district of Bagram, Parwan Province by taking advantage of the amnesty decree of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council and message and resolution of the historical loya jerga. They brought with them 1 rocket launcher and 3 shells, a heavy machinegun, and 10 Chinese and Egyptian kalashnikovs.

SPA Reports on Fighting

GF211556 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, 21 Jan (SPA) — Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad today said that Baghman Valley, 20 km from the capital, Kabul, witnessed intensive fighting between the Afghan mujahidin and Soviet and Afghan Government troops on 16 January. An Afghan mujahidin unit attacked a Soviet force killing five Soviets and destroying one tank. The diplomats said

that on the same day a Soviet-DRA force of 200 men launched a house to house search in the nearby villages and that during the search operations the force kidnapped two young women and killed other women and one man.

The diplomats said that Soviet military aircraft bombed Kabisa and Charikar Provinces in central Afghanistan on 10 and 13 Janaury, inflicting heavy damage. The diplomats pointed out that 14 women and a child were among those who were killed in Charikar Province alone.

The Afghan mujahidin launched an attack on police centers in Qandahar Province on 13 January and killed 12 Kabul regime policemen. During the attack three mujahidin were martyred. The Afghan mujahidin also attacked a vehicle carrying some government soldiers on the airport road killing 10 soldiers and wounding 10 others.

Western diplomats said that the Ghazni area, 90 miles south of Kabul, has witnessed intensive military activities. Fierce fighting took place between the Afghan mujahidin and the government and Soviet troops on 5 and 6 January. Many government and Soviet troops were killed in the attack. A Soviet military plane bombed several villages in the Ghazni area on 7 January.

Western diplomats said that a number of big Soviet transport planes were seen leaving Kabul airport from 10 to 19 January. The planes, which appeared to be transporting soldiers and provisions, are said to have made about 22 flights. A number of MIG-24 planes and armed helicopters were seen making daily flights from Kabul Airport toward the southwestern area to attack Afghan resistance targets in Vardak Province.

Training Program Cooperation With USSR Begins

LD201240 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 19 Jan 86

[Text] Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have commenced a new cooperation program for training skilled workers in the current year. This program, which will last for 5 years, specifies the construction of 10 vocational training centers at a DRA pedagogic industrial training establishment with the Soviet Union's technical aid.

According to a TASS agency report, skilled workers for the gas industry and geological excavations will be trained by a center to be opened in Sheberghan. Chemical industry workers also will be trained in Mazar-e Sharif and textile workers in Qandahar.

Those interested in learning work in the areas of agriculture, construction, and transport, may be trained in Herat, Farah, and Kabul.

The report adds that training centers in Afghanistan can each absorb 300 to 400 students and the Soviet Union will equip these centers with modern tools and equipment. Soviet teachers also will take part in teaching.

The Industrial Pedagogic Institute, which is scheduled to open in Kabul, will enroll more than 700 students.

The report adds that the two countries' new cooperation program will be expanded even more. Two vocational training centers exist in the DRA, which have been built with the Soviet Union's help. Construction and road-building workers, metal workers, agricultural machinery operators, electric power workers, and workshop workers of industrial machine-tools will be trained at these centers. In addition to this, Afghan youths are engaged in training in Soviet educational institutes.

USSR's Kuznetsov Arrives in Delhi 23 Jan

BK231620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The first vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Mr V.V. Kuznetsov, arrived in New Delhi today on a weeklong official visit. He was received at the airport by the vice president, Mr R. Venkataraman. Mr Kuznetsov is heading a six member delegation of the Supreme Soviet, which has come out at the invitation of the Indian Parliament.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Kuznetsov and Mr Venkatzraman said the delegation's visit will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Attends Dinner

BK240449 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen friendship and deepen mutual understanding. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the 18-member Soviet parliamentary delegation in New Delhi last night, the vice president, Mr Venkataraman, said India-Soviet relations are time tested and bounded by the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation. In his reply, the first vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Mr V.V. Kuznetsov, said that the treaty reflects the true character of the goal which the two nations cherish.

2 Killed, 40 Injured in Police Confrontation

BK231613 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] In Haryana, 2 persons were killed and 40 injured when police opened fire to control unruly mobs indulging in violence at different places. About 150 policemen were also injured, many of them seriously, in these incidents.

An official spokesman told the Chandigarh correspondent this evening that the incidents occurred in connection with the Rasta Roko [road blockade] agitation. The police opened fire to control the stone-pelting mobs trying to disrupt vehicular traffic at Paniwala Mota in Sirsa and near (Gorjaba) in Sonepat District. The other two incidents of firing occurred at (Chinana) and Rohtak.

The chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has expressed distress and grief at the death of those killed in the firing and sanctioned exgratia payment of 15,000 rupees to members of each bereaved family.

Meanwhile, the bundh [strike] in the state today was complete except at Adampur, Tohana and Fatehabad in Hissar and Nishan in Karnal District.

The Chandigarh aministration has made adequate security arrangements in view of the bundh call given by some political and social organizations for tomorrow. Police pickets have been posted and patrolling intensified in the city.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this evening that prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more persons are already in force. The call has been given to press the demands for a linguistic survey in the city on the pattern of the one recently held in 54 villages of Fazilka and Muktsar Tahsil in Punjab.

Chandigarh Strike Call 'Evokes Negligible Response'

BK240855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] The bundh [strike] call in the Union Territory of Chandigarh today evoked negligible response. According to an official spokesman, more than 90 percent of shops and business establishments in the city are open, the vehicular traffic is plying normally and educational institutions are functioning as usual. The call for the bundh has been given by some political and social leaders to press their demand for a linguistic survey in the Union Territory on the pattern of the one recently held in 54 villages of Fazilka and Muktsar tahsils [revenue districts] in Punjab. Meanwhile, leaders of Chandigarh unit of all major political parties have announced their dissociation with the bundh call.

Over 500 Released From Precautionary Detention

BK240455 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The Haryana government has released over 500 people who were arrested in the state as a precautionary measure during the last 2 days. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that those released include the state Lok Dal president, Mr Devilal; the Haryana BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr Mangal Sen, and five MLA's [members of the Legislative Assembly].

Congress-I Leader Shot Dead in Punjab

BK240439 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] In Punjab, Mr Shyamlal, the block Congress-I president of Kalanaur in Gurdaspur District, was shot dead by two unidentified miscreants last evening. The assailants who are reported to have come on foot escaped after the incident.

Five Reported Dead in PIA Office Bomb Blast

HK231242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 23 (AFP) — Five people died and two dozen were injured today, many of them seriously, when a huge bomb blast ripped through the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) office at Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan, today, witnesses and hospital sources reported. Reports reaching here said the bomb was planted in the ticketing section of the PIA building which was one of the biggest office complexes in the cantonment area.

The blast during the morning rush hour at 11.00AM (0600 GMT) set the entire building ablaze and a pall of thick black smoke engulfed the whole area hampering rescue operations, the sources said. Fire fighters struggled for three hours to bring the bbaze under control. But sources in Peshawar said the major part of the building, including all PIA facilities and its cargo section were gutted.

The impact of the blast was felt several kilometres (miles) away. The bomb was the biggest in the wave which has gripped the border town since the beginning of this month. Several casualties have been reported in at least half a dozen bomb explosions in and around Peshawar this week.

No arrests have been made so far, but official sources believe the Afghan secret service "KHAD" is involved, in a bid to harrass a population which is sheltering about two million Afghan refugees and several resistance guerrilla groups. Police have identified as Soviet-made several unexploded bombs and stores of explosive material siezed earlier.

This is the first time that an important government run agency office has been made a target of the blast. Past attacks were confined to the refugee concentration areas and the offices of rebel groups. Several banks and other offices rented in the building were also damaged in today's blast.

Two years ago at least six Afghan Mujahedeen died in an explosion at the Hezbi Islami group's main office. As a result Pakistani authorities expelled all rebel organisations from the town, shifting their offices to outlying suburbs. Most of those injured today were PIA staff. Officials have so far confirmed two deaths while unofficial count was five dead and 24 wounded.

Opposition Demonstration Supports Libya

NC232012 Paris AFP in English 2002 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Jan 23 (AFP) — Several thousand followers of the opposition alliance movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) took to the streets here today in a show of support for Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in his confrontation with the United States. The demonstrators, most of them members of the banned Pakistan People's Party carrying portraits of Col al-Qadhdhafi and executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, tried to head for the U.S. Consulate, but police blocked their way.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan early this month imposed economic sanctions on Libya, alleging that Col al-Qadhdhafi's government was implicated in international terrorism.

New PLO Ambassador Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK231553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The new PLO representative in Pakistan, Mr Ahmad 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Suleyman., called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. He delivered a message of good wishes and well-being from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He also conveyed a message of thanks for the full-fledged support extended by the Pakistan people to the just cause of the PLO.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Lift Siege in Farah

BK240317 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin lifted the seige of Soviet-Karmal forces in Farah Province [word indistinct] for the second time. According to the reports, Afghan mujahidin inflicted heavy casualties on the charging soldiers and forced them to retreat. In this major offensive Soviet-Karmal forces used (?many) armored cars and helicopters. In the fighting a plane was shot down and two armored cars were also damaged.

Another report says mujahidin also attacked the notorious [words indistinct] in Badghisat Province and killed at elast three intelligence officers.

BANGLADESH

PRC Minister, Delegation Leave for Home 23 Jan

BK240204 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] The 10-member Chinese delegation led by the minister for chemical industry, Mr Qin Zhongda, left Dhaka yesterday after an 8-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr Qin, who led his country at the second session of the Bangladesh-China joint commission, also attended the inauguration of the Kalas urea fertilizer factory. He also held detailed discussions with a number of ministers to (?stabilize) and develop the existing economic relations between the two countries.

China has agreed to assist Bangladesh in the mining and exploration of coal deposits at (Boropokuria) in the northern part of the country. It also agreed to consider (?Dhaka's) request for setting up of some new projects including a number of fertilizer plants and power distribution projects. The delegation visited Chittagong, Chandraxhona and Kaftari.

SRI LANKA

Cabinet Approves Draft Citizenship Bill 22 Jan

BK231130 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft bill on citizenship to those of Indian origin submitted by President J.R. Jayewardene. Last week Sri Lanka and India reached agreement to resolve the problem of stateless persons of Indian origin. Cabinet spokesman Minister of State Dr Anandatissa de Alwis told newsmen that the bill will be submitted to the Supreme Court for its decision on whether the proposed legislation is consistent with the Constitution.

The bill is expected to be debated in parliament as urgent legislation during the latter half of next month.

Parliament Debates Extension of Emergency

BK231138 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency was debated in Parliament this morning. The minister of parliamentary affairs and sports, Vincent Perera, who introduced the motion in Parliament, gave a graphic account of terrorist activities during the past months. The security forces were able to repulse several attacks of the terrorists. The terrorists have violated the agreement on the cessation of hostilities.

The MP for Attanagalla, Lakshman Jayakody, participating in the debate said that if the government had any plan for solving the terrorist problem and the economic situation, it should put forward its solution now. He said the security of the country has deteriorated.

Mr Jayakody said that only the national security minister discusses matters with the security forces in the north and east. He also denied that Mrs Bandaranaike had made a statement to the effect that the country should be in readiness to battle with Indian plantation workers in the future.

The minsiter of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that while looking for a political solution to the crisis, the security of the country must be ensured.

Army Officer Killed by Terrorists in Mullaitivu

BK231107 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Lieutenant J.W. Perera of the Sri Lanka army was killed by terrorists on Tuesday while he was supervising repairs to the Mullaitivu-Malkolam road blasted by terrorists earlier.

A communique issued by the Ministry of National Security stated yesterday that terrorists had attacked the repair party during the course of which Lt Perera was killed.

Meanwhile, 51 among 251 suspects taken in for questioning in connection with last Sunday's shootout in Irudayapuram in the Batticaloa district have been identified as active members of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam], TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. The rest, numbering 200, were released, the communique added.

Musavi: Plot To Damage Economy Has Failed

LD231731 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Thursday said that efforts by Iraq and other arrogant foreign powers to damage Iran's economy had failed. Addressing Friday prayers leading from Tehran Province, Musavi also said that since the 1979 Islamic revolution the government has been leading a policy based on Islamic values. He said government organizations have carried out their responsibilities through the great effort of the civil servants and despite difficulties that exist because of the imposed Iraqi war. He said that policies of the former regime had made the country indebted to foreigners and put Iran under the influence of the United States.

On the recent decline in oil prices, Musavi said the trend was a plot by arrogant foreign regimes to damage the economy of the Islamic Republic. He said that Iraqi regime pursued similar aims by attacking Iran's economic facilities. But the prime minister pointed out that neither effort would succeed because of due measures taken by the Iranian Government. In fact, he said, there is more creativity in Iran's economy because of these attacks. Musavi called on the paryer leaders to keep in constant touch with the people and to convey their views to government officials.

Musavi Addresses Volunteers Departing for Battlefronts

LD232249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpts] More than a 1,000 volunteer popular mobilization forces from Kordestan province, the Karbala marchers' convoy no. 2 together with a big convoy carrying the donations of people consisting of basic provisions needed on the battlefornts, set off for the battlefronts of justice against injustice after some ceremonies this morning.

The ceremonies for the despatched volunteers were attended by clergymen, students, teachers, civil servants, traders, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, the imam's representative in the west of the country. In the course of some remarks he praised the Karbala marchers as those who are marching to rescue the deprived and the oppressed. He also praised the self-sacrifice of the combatants of Islam. The second convoy of Karbala marchers from different cities and towns of eastern Azarbayjan — composed of 4,000 combative forces — this afternoon set off for the battlefronts of light against darkness with a send-off from the inhabitants of this province. According to this report, this party arrived in Tabriz yesterday.

Boycott of, UK, Norway Urged, Oil Prices Criticized

LD232019 TEHRAN IRNA in English 1950 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — Iran Thursday 23 January -- called on members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to boycott Britain and Norway for slashing oil prices in the world market. Deputy oil minister for international affairs, Hoseyn Kazempur Ardabili said in an interview with IRNA, that OPEC should also bring down its production ceiling in an effort to stablize current oil prices.

The price of Britain's sea oil dropped from $30.8 in December to $23 after the 76th OPEC conference and to a proposed $19.95 for February, with Norway making similar cuts, according to Ardabili.

Ardabili also criticised some of the OPEC members for what he said was "being instrumental" in bringing down prices and attacked Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Nigeria for selling more than their official quota and violating OPEC supply rules.

Last month Oman and Dubai allowed the multinational oil companies to sell their oil four dollars lower than previous prices, ardabili said.

The Islamic Republic and other progressive OPEC members including Algeria and Libya, he said, are determined to fight the "reactionary trends" in the cartel.

The cutting of prices by Britain and Norway is an instrument to implement the will of imperialist circles, he said. If such measures continue all OPEC members should study a boycott or trade restrictions against the two countries, he added.

The aim of the cuts according to Ardabili is to boost economic activity in Western industrial nations to the detriment of OPEC member countries, particularly those with larger populations.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns this imperialist policy and criticises the stand of certain OPEC members. It calls for the unity of all OPEC countries in this respect. It also calls on all members to resist and stabilize the price of their national wealth in the interest of their people" he said.

Ardabili also called on non-OPEC oil producers to join the world cartel in safeguarding the interests of producing countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Air Force Personnel

LD231101 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — The Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Wednesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran was an example of a valuable successful experience which will have great impact on the world, the Third World countries in particular. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani was speaking to a group of commanders, pilots and personnel of the air force.

He said that for some time this notion had become dominant in most Third World countries that their struggle for freedom and independence would be a step from bad to worse. Such a false impression, he added, has made the oppressive powers to feel more secure.

However, he added, the achievements of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the struggle of the Iranian people with no reliance on superpowers, has produced a new successful case for the people of the world. The Islamic Revolution of Iran has proved that

people can stand on their own feet, Rafsanjani added.

On the Iraqi-imposed war and the extensive arms supply to the Iraqi regime, he said that in this war Iran has relied on itself. He further told the air force personnel that no one could believe that the Iranian Air Force with all its complexity and dependence, could be able to defend the country for a long time.

On geographical situation of Iran, he said that Iran was of great strategic importance and the whole world counted on it.

More on the Iraqi-imposed war he said that it will not end unless "we become victorious". This victory, he added, will provide another experience through which Iran will prove that a nation could stand against arms and weaponry of big powers.

He further told the air force personnel that the present status of war fronts has led some to conclude that a balance might have been established in the war and, therefore, nothing will happen. However, he added, "we believe that creation of a balance is impossible. For a country with millions of people volunteering to sacrifice their lives and whatever they have in order to attain their rights, establishment of a balance is impossible."

Therefore, he added, such claims were baseless and once it is proven that Iran will stand against enemy and will not forego its rights, this experience too will be of value for many.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2359

LD231549 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — A military communique published here Thursday said that Iran's Muslim combatants silenced enemy artillery fire and set ablaze parts of enemy bunkers killing several Iraqi troops in the northwestern operational regions, on Wednesday.

In Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts, communique number 2359 issued by the Joint Staff Command said, Iraqi positions were subjected to heavy artillery fire, killing or wounding 10 Iraqi soldiers.

In Sumar region, exchange of fire was more intense Wednesday than the other regions, the command said, adding that Iranian anti-aircraft fire prevented Iraqi helicopters' reconnaissance flights.

The communique said that in Mehran operational region, an Iraqi patrol unit was subjected to Iranian fire and fled sustaining casualties.

In Hoseyniyeh region, Iraqi reconnaissance flights were checked by Iranian Muslim combatants, the communique said. Meanwhile, Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Abadan in Khuzestan province Wednesday caused minor damage to some buildings in the city.

Abadan, Environs Shelled

GF231547 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, due to the continuation of the shelling of residential and civilian areas of the steadfast city of Abadan and the surrounding districts by the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi aggressors over the past 24 hours, two residential units were destroyed.

Iraq Attacks Genaveh

LD232018 Tehran IRNA in English 2012 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi war planes bombarded an area in the outskirts of Genaveh, in southern Iran (northeast of Khark Island) Thursday as a result of which five passengers of a bus which was hit by an Iraqi rocket, were martyred and 20 others wounded. An oil pipeline in that region was also set on fire but was extinguished by firemen immediately.

An informed source at the Oil Ministry here told IRNA that the damage inflicted on the oil pipeline was minor and would have no affect on Iran's oil exports. He said it will be repaired by Iranian oil experts shortly. Reports reaching here indicated that the people in the area had rushed to help victims of the inhuman Iraqi attack, and transfer them to nearest hospitals.

Kurdish Operations in Iraq

LD231138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The latest report received from Iraq indicates that following intensification of the struggles of the Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries against Saddam's regime in that country's northern provinces, the forces of the Iraqi regime razed to the ground the villages of Bilehdar and Qasbeh, 5 km from Sulaymaniyah. According to this report, government forces also attacked the villages of Purchdaghi, Meqran, and Shahr-Bazar and set fire to many houses. The report adds that many of the villagers have become homeless as a result of these attacks; and last month, the security forces of the Iraqi regime forced 400 families, connected with the Muslim revolutionaries, to leave Sulaymaniyah.

Trade Protocol Signed With Zimbabwe

LD230954 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, jan 23, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran will cooperate with Zimbabwe in building an oil refinery and also in training the needed technical and industrial manpower, said a protocol signed between the two countries in Harare, Wednesday. The technical and trade protocol was signed by foreign ministers of the two countries at Harare Airport prior to the departure of the Iranian delegation headed by President 'Ali Khamene'i, at the end of a two-day visit.

The Zimbabwan foreign minister, Witness Mangwende, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati during which the protocol was signed, thanked President Khamene'i and his accompanying delegation for visiting Zimbabwe.

He also praised the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the racist South African regime, adding that Iran has always opposed apartheid in South Africa.

He noted that during the talks President Khamene'i held with Zimbabwan officials, practical ways of campaign against Pretoria regime were discussed. He expressed hope that discussions would be followed up in this connection.

Meanwhile, the Iranian foreign minister thanked the warm hospitality extended to the Iranian delegation by the Zimbabwan Government.

He said that campaign against the racist South African regime was the main theme of discussions between officials of the two countries.

Velayati expressed hope that the talks would be followed up and bilateral cooperation would be expanded.

Afghan Revolutionaries' Operations Reported
GF231821 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have once again broken the siege which the joint Soviet-Afgnan forces have imposed in the area of (Sharafatpur) in the Farah Province. In retaliation for their disgraceful defeat there, the joint forces besieged the area 20 days ago, using all of their equipment and forces in Qandahar, Shindand, and Farah. The Muslim revolutionaries forced these forces to retreat after shooting down one MIG and destroying two of their tanks. Afghan sources indicate that 14 personnel of the Kabul regime forces have surrendered with full gear to the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries during the break of siege.

Tabriz Commentary Attacks BBC, VOA Reporting
GF221207 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 21 Jan 86

[From "What Are Foreign Radios Saying?" program]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, in their drive to distort developments concerning Iran, the dependent foreign radios last week chose to discuss brother Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan and a number of African countries and the searching of suspicious ships by the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval forces in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan last week was his first to a non-Arab country as president. It was widely distorted by Israeli Radio and the BBC, which are regarded as the main radios of imperialism and international Zionism. However, although admitting a number of realities, it has become clear that, because of their nature, these media organs have approached Khamene'i's visit with malice. Here is what BBC reported on Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan on Monday, 13 January:

Thousands of people in Pakistan gathered around brother Khamene'i carrying Imam Khomeyni's photographs and chanting death to America. Brother Khamene'i was given a full welcome at Islamabad airport. A military parade was held on the occasion of his visit to Pakistan, and he was greeted with a 21-gun salute.

Voice of America also gave priority coverage to brother Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan last week. In admitting the anti-American feeling of those who welcomed brother Khamene'i, the radio said the following:

In a statement after his aircraft, acompanied by a number of Pakistani military aircraft and the 21-gun salute at Islamabad airport, the 46-year-old president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that his 2-day visit can achieve significant results at a time when the Muslims are experiencing many difficulties. Khamene'i alleged that the Islamic countries are being greatly threatened by imperialism. About 25,000 people gathered at Islamabad airport at the time of President Khamene'i's arrival in Islamabad.

Although the dependent foreign radios pursued the trend of limiting reports concerning President Khamene'i's visit to Pakistan, they also had to admit the significance and vastness of his welcomers. Agencies, even those controlled by U.S. imperialism, that is to say REUTER and AP, openly admitted that such a welcome is rarely accorded to someone visiting Pakistan.

VOA reported that 25,000 people attended the welcoming ceremony held for brother Khamene'i. Another malicious point in the VOA report however, was the questionable way VOA officials described the reality of U.S. imperialism's threats to the world's Muslims. Brother Khamene'i said in Islamabad that the world's Muslims are now being subjected to the threats and attacks of imperialism and international Zionism more than ever before. This reality, however, was described by VOA as an allegation, when in fact it does not require any confirmation.

The cruelty inflicted upon the Muslims in the Near East and the Muslim countries of Africa has been the direct result of the policies pursued by the White House. It has been carried out by the dependent regimes and the allies of the White House particularly by the Israeli regime, which occupies Jerusalem, and by the racist regime in South Africa. Cognizant of this reality, President Khamene'i recalled in Mozambique that the struggle against the Tel Aviv and Pretoria regimes cannot be waged separately from the one against U.S. hegemonism. A separate struggle would produce no result.

Dear listeners, another significant aspect of the broadcasts aired by dependent foreign radios last week was the widespread reporting of the searches carried out on a U.S. and a British ship in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It will be recalled that following the escalation of the war in the Persian Gulf region by the Iraqi regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a view to preventing the Saddam regime's military forces from broadening their disturbances, disclosed in September last year that it would stop ships carrying cargo aimed at strengthening the Iraqi

regime's military power. Following the disclosure of this new position in clear terms, the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval forces have searched suspicious ships and confiscated their military cargo.

Using the question of halting and searching suspicious ships, the imperialist media organs have found an opportunity to open a new front for continuing their propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Obviously, the reaction of the media organs controlled by imperialism against the seizure of the U.S. and british ships reflects the way the United States and Britain took at the matter.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

A YSP Central committee statement broadcast by Aden radio 24 January named 50 YSP leaders and cadres killed in the "massacres" perpetrated by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's men 13 January. The list included 'Ali Nasir Ahmad 'Antar, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Salih Muslih Qasim, minister of defense; and 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi, chairman of the YSP Central Committee. The statement also announced 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's dismissal from all party and state posts, noting that the Central Committee has chosen Haydar Bakr al-'Attas to "temporarily assume the chairmanship of the state." Al-'Attas' election as deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium was subsequently reported by the radio, which noted that he will currently assume all the responsibilities of chairman. Al-'Attas arrived at Aden Airport 25 January, where he was met by YSP officials Salim Salih Muhammad and Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, according to the radio. Yemeni sources cited by the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* described Salim Salih Muhammad as the "strong man" in Aden who will be the most powerful new leader if 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il does not recover from serious injuries.

As for 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, QNA said his forces control four governorates in the east of the country and Radio Monte Carlo reported that he has threatened to recapture the capital if his opponents do not surrender by 29 January. An Aden radio commentary acknowledged that 'Ali Nasir is reorganizing the "remnants" of his forces. Meanwhile, Tripoli television reported that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed his support for 'Ali Nasir in a 25 January "contact" with the PDRY president. On the YAR's view of the situation, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD said the YAR has told other states that the YSP Central Committee decision to dismiss 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is "illegal" and will only lead to further bloodshed, Abu Dhabi radio reported. *AL-KHALIJ* cited reports of YAR troop movements in the direction of the PDRY border 25 January, warning journalists, however, to stay away.

Libya

"War will occur" if U.S. planes or warships violate Libyan "territorial waters," Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned in a 25 January news conference broadcast by Tripoli television. Shown addressing newsmen on board a naval gunboat in Misratah harbor, Col Al-Qadhdhafi said 32.5 degrees North latitude is the "line of death" where Libyan forces would fight "with our backs to the wall," adding that a U.S.-Libyan clash was expected "at any moment during these maneuvers." Al-Qadhdhafi said he would sail the gunboat from Misratah along the 32.5 degree line to Banghazi "to prove to the Americans that we are here." Meanwhile, a Tripoli radio commentary called the U.S. military exercises off the Libyan coast a return to "gunboat diplomacy."

In an interview with the Athens paper *TO ETHNOS TIS KIRIAKIS*, Col Al-Qadhdhafi said that if the United States were to attack Libya, "we would attack the U.S. bases in Europe, particularly those in the Mediterranean region," and that "all" U.S. targets, both civilian and military, would be subject to attack.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said in a Paris radio interview that if the EC decides to carry out an economic boycott of Libya, the Arab League "will automatically be led to taking retaliatory measures." He added that the Arab states would also "show their solidarity" in the event of an armed attack against Libya. In Rabat, Morocco's King Hassan warned in a letter to President Reagan carried by MAP that U.S.-Libyan relations could "dangerously lead to a point of no return" and he asked that "peaceful means" and "dialogue" be used to settle the two countries' differences.

Jordan-PLO; Jordan-Israel

Jordan's King Husayn met with PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman 25 January, according to the *JORDAN TIMES*. *'Arafat was expected to inform the king of* the PLO's "final position" on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the paper added citing "informed sources." Husayn and 'Arafat also met 26 January, according to Amman radio. Meanwhile, a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary reiterated that the PLO will not retreat from its "total rejection" of the "ill-omened" Resolution 242. In London, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem television that he doubts that the goal of Israeli-Jordanian talks by the end of February can be met, in spite of a U.S. "supreme effort" in this regard. Peres had earlier announced that King Husayn has told Israel that Jordan will conduct talks with Israel "within a short period of time," Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt-Israel

President Husni Mubarak met with Israeli Minister of State 'Ezer Weizman 26 January, MENA reported. Weizman's goal was to create the framework for a summit meeting between Mubarak and Shim'on Peres, according to Jerusalem radio.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil has called for an extraordinary cabinet session 27 January to approve referring the tripartite agreement to the Chamber of Deputies, the president's office announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Al-Jumayyil's decision to ask the Chamber to discuss the agreement is in accordance with an understanding reached with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the statement maintained. However, the radio subsequently broadcast Prime Minister Rashid Karami's statement that he has "declined to attend" the cabinet

session and that referring the tripartite agreement to the Chamber is impossible.

In another development, Samir Ja'ja' was elected Chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee 24 January, according to a Lebanese Forces statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. The new Lebanese Forces leadership is eager to abide by the spirit of the tripartite agreement, the statement added, but it reserves the right to propose certain amendments to it. The statement invited the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party to revive the tripartite committee meetings in Damascus. As for Elie Hubayqah, the former Lebanese Forces leader, Beirut radio reported his arrival in Zahlah 26 January for talks with local leaders on the establishment of a broad national front that will seek to implement the tripartite agreement.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian aircraft bombed an Iraqi military garrison southeast of Al-'Amadiyah 24 January and other garrisons west of and in Rawanduz 26 and 27 January, according to Iranian Joint Staff communiques cited by IRNA. An Iraqi military spokesman said the Al-'Amadiyah and Rawanduz raids were on civilian areas, INA reported. Meanwhile, Iraqi planes hit two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast and attacked five Iranian military camps over the weekend, according to Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

OPEC

Iran is cutting its oil production by half "until further notice" and calls on other oil-producing states to join it in "thwarting" the "well calculated and continuous plot by Western countries" to weaken the oil-exporting nations, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said following a Cabinet session 26 January, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, the OPEC ministerial committee charged with enforcing OPEC'S oil production quotas is to meet in Vienna 3 February, INA reported citing the Iraqi oil minister.

Morocco-SDAR

Seventy Moroccan soldiers were killed in two operations by Polisario forces 23 January, according to a Saharan Information Ministry communique reported by APS.

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Karmal Message Assures Libya of Support

LD232130 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Reply message "recently sent" from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution — read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution and the great victor of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiryah [SPLAJ]; January 1986; Kabul:

Respected Brother Col Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi. I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of myself, the leadership of the party and government of the DRA, best wishes and fraternal greetings to you, dear friend, and through you to the fraternal Muslim nation of the SPLAJ, and wish you further victories in the defense of peace and progress, and in repulling the provocations of imperialism, reaction, and Zionism.

Your congratulatory telegram on the occasion of 21st founding anniversary of the PDPA has recently arrived in Kabul.

In expressing gratitude for your warm feelings regarding the righteous and just struggle of our people under the leadership of the PDPA, I assure you that our party and government have always been and will continue to support resolutely the righteous and just struggle of the fighting and peace-loving people of the SPLAJ against the conspiracies and the reactionary intrigues of imperialist, reactionary, and Zionist circles.

During its history the PDPA has been resolutely and earnestly defending the just claim of the Arab people, in particular the Palestinian people, against Zionism, reaction, and imperialism.

With the imperialist circles of the Washington administration once again shamefully provoking the independent and progress-loving country of the SPLAJ, I assure you, dear friend, and the toiling people of Libya, to count on support and fraternal solidarity of the free-born, proud, and Muslim people of Afghanistan, the party, and the DRA Government. With warm fraternal greetings,

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and President of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Karmal Willing To Talk to Pakistan's Ziaul Haq

OW270149 Tokyo KYODO in English 0139 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 26 KYODO — Afghan President Babrak Karmal said Sunday he is ready to talk with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ziaul Haq on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from his country.

Afghanistan has already drafted plans on a pullout by Soviet forces, Karmal said at a news conference, and is ready to go into negotiations with Pakistan immediately. The two countries have repeatedly exchanged border fire since the Soviet Union sent troops to Afghanistan in late 1979. an estimated three million Afghan refugees have since crossed the border into Pakistan. Afghan guerrillas have set up bases in Pakistan to fight Soviet and pro-Soviet government forces.

Karmal told reporters Afghanistan and Pakistan have reached general agreement on ending foreign interference in Afghanistan and on voluntary return of the refugees. The two countries have held negotiations through the United Nations to settle the dispute. Afghanistan and Pakistan should now sit down face to face and discuss how Soviet forces can be pulled out, Karmal added.

More than 20 reporters, mostly Western correspondents stationed in Moscow, took part in the news conference, through which diplomatic sources here said Karmal hoped to convince reporters of the stability of his five-year-old administration. The United States, Japan and many other U.S. allies do not recognize the Karmal government.

Karmal Chairs Revolutionary Council Presidium Session

LD232317 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium chaired by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, was held today in Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

At the beginning of the session Babrak Karmal spoke in detail about the burden of responsibility and the heavy volume of work placed on each member of the government organs as a result of the recent decisions of the party and government concerning the broadening of the social pillars of the people's sovereignty and normalization of the situation in the country.

He also said: The recent measures and in particular, the widening of the composition of the DRA Revolutionary Council and participation by a number of credible delegates of the people, including a majority of non-party members, were warmly welcomed by the people of our country.

The important duty is that the contents of the 10 theses, the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the decisions and resolutions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, particularly the important decision to widen the composition of the DRA Revolutionary Council, must be conveyed to every compatriots in the most remote corner of the country and to our deceived compatriots outside the country.

Because the members of the Revolutionary Council enjoy credibility and necessary prestige among the people, their words carry massive influence. Hence they should personally carry the facts to the people. The Presidium must control and enhance the work of the central and local organs.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium has endorsed a particular resolution in this respect, whereby the members of the high government organs, those in charge of the ministries, central

department, local and government organs, are being entrusted with the duty to perform even broader and more active work in the localities and among the people.

The session then discussed the procedure and nature of work of the Revolutionary Council Presidium and the duties of its members. Specific decisions were made in this regard. Other issues within the jurisdiction of the Revolutionary Council Presidium were also discussed and decisions made.

4 Bandits, 'Chinese Trainer' Killed in Peshawar

LD270740 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 27 Jan 86

[text] Kabul, January 26, BAKHTAR — Four counter-revolutionary bandits including a Chinese trainer of the criminal gangs were killed and 13 wounded seriously as a result of the bombs blasted by the unknown persons in Shabqadar of Peshawar, reports reaching BAKHTAR say. The chief of information service of the so-called Mahaz-e Mili band was shot by an unknown person in Gulkaj [word indistinct] of Peshawar, the reports add.

Kabul Notes U.S. General's Visit to Pakistan

GF261345 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] According to reports reaching from Islamabad, General George Crist, chief officer of the central command of the United States CENTCOM, is on a visit to Pakistan. He has had talks with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, foreign minister, and other officials of Pakistan. It is believed in New Delhi that matters related to the intensification of the undeclared war against the DRA and the strengthening of the military axis of Washington-Islamabad, particularly the possibility of the use of Pakistan's territory for the U.S. military were at the center of these talks.

Local observers know that Washington is resolved to give the Afghan counterrevolution its $100 million only through official channels in the course of the current year. The aid of the United States to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries is precisely taking place with Pakistan where over 100 military training camps exist and the Afghan counterrevolutionary groupings are trained under the supervision of instructors from the United States, Pakistan, and other countries.

Regarding the present visit of this American general, the Indian press notes that the creation of bases in Gwadar in Pakistan for operations in Gulf regions by the RDF of the United States had been discussed. The reports indicates apart from this the Ziaul Haq regime has agreed that the Air Force of the United States can use the airbases of Pakistan in case of a so-called emergency.

The unprecedented strengthening of the military forces of Pakistan is a source of concern for the countries of South and Southwest Asia. By now Islamabad has received tens of modern F-16 bombers, helicopters, tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft guns of [word indistinct] and warships. According to reports from UNI news agency of India, the U.S. Administration endorsed recently the delivery of more up to date arms to Pakistan regime. This system includes a radar which could considerably increase the offensive capability of warplanes and artillery of Pakistan. The military forces of Pakistan have obtained the permission to purchase unconditionally the sea-based Harpoon-type cruise missiles from the United States.

Special Court Sentences 3 Rebels for 'Armed Attacks'

LD261857 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The judicial delegation of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court yesterday in an open court sentenced to death and to several years in prison, three criminals belonging to the Jamyat-e Islami band.

A BIA correspondent reports that any criminals who commit murder, terror, and aggression -- the shameful policies of the circles of the reactionary and imperialistic powers -- in exchange for money, will sooner or later be captured by the alert security forces and will be punished for their shameful, anti-human activities.

Three of these sold-out elements who, armed with various weapons, carried out dozens of savage anti-human crimes, were captured and handed over to the law. They are: Muhammad Akbar, son of Khoda-e Nazar; Abdul Basir, son of Sultan Muhammad; and Qadratollah, son of Habib. They were responsible not only for the armed attacks in the Dar-ol Amand Palace, Charkhab Post, Bagh Koti, Chariab, and on a number of the toiling families in the Shah Shahid, Kart-e Now, and in the area around the district of Paghman, but also for delivering arms from Pakistan to Afghanistan; receiving military training by Pakistani and U.S. instructors in Peshawar; destroying schools, mosques, and other public establishments; and killing children and other innocent people.

AFP: President Urges Unity, Political Tolerance

NC251228 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 25 (AFP) — President Zail Singh called on Indians today to preserve the country's unity and asked for political tolerance among parties with divergent views. Mr Zail Singh, in remarks prepared for a broadcast to the nation on the eve of India's 36th Republic Day, said certain basic values in public life sustained and promoted national unity — "not only the political unity, but the unity of the spirit, sentiment and emotion, the roots of which lie deep in our national consciousness."

Said the president: "It is, however, unfortunate that some decline in observance of these values has been evident, which gives rise to many undesirable consequences. For this decline in values, we can only blame ourselves."

The president did not mention any specific threats to national unity. But observers interpreted his words as a reference chiefly to the situation in the troubled northern state of Punjab, Mr Zail Singh's own home state.

Mr. Zail Singh asked India's various political parties to compete in healthy programmes with the ultimate goal of promoting the greater welfare of the masses, and reminded them that "political differences should not assume the overtones of hostility and enmity." The ruling party and the opposition, whether at the federal or state level, together represent the collective will of voters, he said.

Two Ministers Resign; Portfolios Reallocated

BK271258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Here is a message just received: The minister of state for rural development, Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, and the minister of state for food and civil supplies, Mr K.P. Singh Deo, have resigned. According to a communique issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house], their resignations have been accepted.

The commerce minister, Mr P. Shiv Shanker, will handle charge of the food and supplies in addition to his present portfolio.

Reportage on Visit of Greek Prime Minister

Arrives in Bombay

BK250327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The prime minister of Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreou, arrived in Bombay last night on an official visit to India. He is accompanied by his wife and the foreign minister, Mr Karolos Papoulias. The Maharashtra minister for protocol, Mr Javed Khan, received them at the airport.

The Greek prime minister and his wife will leave for New Delhi this morning. They will be the chief guests at the Republic Day celebrations tomorrow.

Arrives New Delhi

BK250958 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister of Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreou, was given a ceremonial welcome when he arrived in New Delhi this afternoon from Bombay on a 4-day state visit. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, several of his cabinet colleagues, members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries.

The Greek prime minister will be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations. He is accompanied by his wife, Mrs (Margarita) Papandreou, and the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Karolos Papoulias. During his stay in the capital, he will call on the president, the vice president and the prime minister. Mr Gandhi is hosting a dinner in honor of the visiting dignitary tonight. Mr Papandreou is scheduled to leave for Athens on Tuesday [28 January].

Meets President, Vice President

BK251634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister of Greece, Dr Andreas Papandreou, who arrived in New Delhi today, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the vice president, Mr Venkataraman. The vice president presented to the visiting dignitary a set of books, including *Discovery of India* written by Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr Papandreou, who is accompanied by his wife, will be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations.

Mathew Commission Submits Report to Cabinet

Fails in Objective

BK251624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The Mathew Commission, which was appointed to identify the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab which could be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh, submitted its report to the government today, the last day of its term. The report was considered by the union cabinet committee on political affairs and later by the full cabinet.

The commission had identified 83 villages and 2 towns in Fazilka and Abohar areas as Hindi-speaking. But it could not recommend their transfer to Haryana as they did not fulfill the criterion of contiguity. This was one of the three criteria which it had been asked to keep in view while recommending transfer of areas. The other two were linguistic affinity and a village being taken as a unit.

In its report, the commission said it was mandatory to apply these criteria laid down in its terms of reference. The irresistible conclusion is that the commission cannot determine any specific Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab which should go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh, the report said. It added that it is for the government of India to take such suitable steps as it deems fit

and transfer some Hindi-speaking territories in Punjab to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh.

It was authoritatively stated in New Delhi that the government stands committed to the implementation of the agreement between the late Sant Longowal and the prime minister. Recalling that the agreement laid down that Chandigarh would go to Punjab, these sources said that the government stands by this commitment. However, since there is no specific recommendation by the Mathew Commission on the areas which should be transferred to Haryana, the government is devising steps by which this can be done at the earliest. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that efforts are already on to persuade the governments of Punjab and Haryana to come to an amicable understanding.

Earlier this evening, the home minister, Mr Chavan, had a meeting with the chief ministers of the two states — Mr Barnala and Mr Bhajan Lal — jointly. Mr Barnala was accompanied by the state finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh. The meeting lasted 45 minutes. They are meeting again tomorrow.

According to agency reports, the Punjab chief minister has welcomed the Mathew Commission's report. He said the report has vindicated his government's stand. The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has ruled out the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab till Hindi-speaking areas of the state are transferred to Haryana as laid down in the Punjab accord. But he hoped that a suitable solution will be found in this regard.

Problem of Chandigarh

BK261634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana, Mr Barnala and Mr Bhajan Lal, held a joint meeting with the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi this evening. It was officially stated that they explored the possibilities of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the question of identifying Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab to be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. The meeting lasted over an hour and was held in a cordial atmosphere. It was decided that Mr Bhajan Lal and Mr Barnala will meet the home minister again after a couple of days.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has expressed full confidence in the center that it will do justice to the interests of the state. Speaking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, he said the Mathew Commission has vindicated the Haryana stand that there are Hindi-speaking areas in Abohar and Fazibka in Punjab to which the state has always laid its claim. He reiterated that the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab in lieu of the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab to Haryana should be simultaneous.

Mr Bhajan Lal also welcomed the setting up of the tribunal for distribution of the Ravi-Beas waters between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. He urged the center to take up the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal in Punjab so that it could be completed by 15 August this year as provided under the Punjab Accord.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, has said that the situation arising out of the Mathew Commission report has not in any way endangered the Punjab Accord. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this afternoon, he welcomed the assertion of the center that it is committed to the implementation of the Punjab Accord.

Militants Control Temple As Sikh Convention Opens

HK260840 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 26 Jan

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 26 (AFP) — Thousands of Sikh separatists were in virtual control of the Sikh Golden Temple here today as a crucial religious convention opened amid fears of possible violence, eyewitnesses and Sikh sources said.

The Sikh "Sarbat Khalsa" convention, the first such convention for 200 years, was expected to formally endorse a decision to demolish the Akal Thakt or the "Throne of the Timeless" and re-build it according to Sikh tradition. The Akal Takht was damaged during a June 1984 Indian army assault on the Golden Temple — the Sikhs' holiest shrine — to dislodge militants, and was later repaired with government help without the agreement and guidance of the Sikh religious authorities. But Sikh sources said the convention attended by thousands of Sikhs might also have an effect on the future course of Sikh history, and both authorities and Sikhs were bracing for possible violence.

Eyewitnesses said Indian paramilitary troops were deployed in strength in this Sikh holy city in the predominantly-Sikh northern Punjab state, and domestic news agencies reported that the army was standing by on alert throughout northern India. "We are ready for anything ... we cannot just afford to allow disruption of peace here," said an administration official.

The city appeared normal, but Sikh pilgrims who normally descend in large numbers on the shrine on Sundays stayed away today. Said one Sikh source: "Everyone is afraid that violence may break out here." The opening of the convention came a day after the deferral of the planned handover today — India's Republic Day — of Chandigrah, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states, to the exclusive control of Punjab as part of a July accord between moderate Sikhs and the federal government. The accord was aimed at ending a four-year violent campaign for greater Sikh autonomy in Punjab.

All trains crossing Punjab and Haryana were canceled after a commission failed yesterday to give its final report on the territorial dispute between the two states, PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] news agency reported.

The convention, which opened with the chanting of hymns by five holy men, was likely to give guidance to Sikhs on their future course of action, which may have far reaching consequences for Sikh politics, Sikh sources said.

Informed Sikh sources said the militants, numbering about 5,000, had outnumbered moderates in the Golden Temple and were in virtual control of the entire shrine. The militants, carrying swords, spears and knives, were roaming inside the temple complex giving cover to militant theoreticians who were prepar-

ing resolutions to be presented at the convention. The dictate of the convention was supposed to be binding on all Sikhs, for whom religion and politics are the same, Sikh sources said. The convention was also scheduled to endorse a resolution to confer "gold medals" on the late militant Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his two close associates, Bhai Amriksingh and former Indian army General Shubahag Singh, all of whom were killed in the army's assault on the temple.

Sikh sources also said the militant camp appeared to be heading for a vertical split as the hardliners were pressing for harsh action against the Punjab's moderate Sikh government led by Surjit Singh Barnala. The hardliners wanted the convention to give a call for a "holy war" against the government, but were being opposed by a section of elderly Sikhs. Old Sikh residents here however disputed claims of the militants that the convention was "Sarbat Khalsa" (all pure). "It is not, as the average Sikhs have not come — it is only the show of the "ugrapanmthies" (militants) ... hence any dictate given by the convention is not bindings on all Sikhs," said one resident here. Meanwhile, Sikhs here reacted angrily to the postponement of Chandrigarh's handover to Punjab.

The deferral followed the failure of a commission to identify the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab that were due for simultaneous transfer to Haryana State as part of the July accord signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the late moderate Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal. "The Sikh accord is finished; we have been cheated," said an elderly Sikh here.

'Khalistan' Flag Raised

HK271128 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Amritsar, India, Jan 27 (AFP) — Tension mounted here today as militant Sikh separatists hoisted the flag of Khalistan over the Golden Temple, their religion's holiest shrine, and began demolishing the temple's inner sanctum. Informed sources said the security forces, who were out in force in this Punjab city yesterday, were absent from the streets today, and that fear of trouble was growing among city residents.

Eyewitnesses said the militants, identified by informed sources as ultra-radical Sikh students, had taken complete control of the temple. The eyewitnesses said that between 100 to 150 volunteers had begun demolishing the Akal Takht, the temple's inner sanctum. Earlier, about a dozen saffron flags of Khalistan, the name of the Sikh state the militants seek to establish, were hoisted above the temple.

A spokesman for the militants, Mokham Singh, refused to comment on events here today. He told reporters he would not stop any armed Sikhs who wanted to enter the temple: "We welcome it as it is our religious right to carry arms." There have been no reports of violence so far today. But one Sikh source said that if Sikh moderates attempted to dislodge the militants from the shrine "the Golden Temple will be knee-deep in blood."

'Parliament of Khalistan' Formed

HK271326 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 27 (AFP) — Militant Sikhs in Punjab state today formed a 150-member "parliament of Khalistan" to take all decisions on religious and other Sikh affairs, a spokesman for the militants announced here. The action was taken shortly they hoisted their separatist flags atop the Golden Temple, the sect's top temple, and removed the five high priests, who had been Sikh moderates.

Spokesman Mokhan Singh said a new five-member committee would form the "cabinet." The committee comprises Wassan Singh, Roor Singh, Dhanna Singh, Gurbachan Singh and Gur dev Singh. It was unclear whether by forming the new body, the militants intended to declare an independant state. Punjab is ruled officially by Sikh moderates from the Akali Dal Party.

Thousands Demonstrate Following Airlines Blast

NC251321 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 25 (AFP) — Several thousand people demonstrated and merchants staged a strike today in the western city of Peshawar to demand improved security following a bomb attack Thursday on Pakistan International Airlines that killed five and injured 24, correspondents on the scene reported. Peshawar, which borders on Afghanistan, harbors many Afghan refugees as well as the headquarters of Moslem groups fighting Soviet-backed Afghan Government forces.

Leaders of local student organizations and members of the non-parliamentary opposition, during an impromptu gathering following the demonstration, accused the government of failing to ensure security. Correspondents said speakers had also called for the departure of Afghan refugees and for increased efforts to persuade Kabul to allow them to return to Afghanistan. The call for the departure of the refugees, according to interviews with Peshawar residents, would appear to have popular backing in the city.

Investigation of Anti-American Protests Planned

GF261749 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jan 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Karachi, Jan. 19: Authorities in Islamabad have ordered the security agencies to identify the forces and real motives behind the current wave of anti-U.S. demonstrations all over the country, *THE MUSLIM* learnt here. Moreover security around American installations in the country has been tightened.

Sources, who do not want to be identified, disclosed that the government was particularly disturbed as these demonstrations had come at a time when it was requesting the United States of America for another five-year extension in the aid package which expires next year. The Government has requested for U.S. dollars 6.5 billion for the next five years. Anti-American demonstrations began in the country after the U.S. president asked for international sanctions against Libya for what he called its involvement in international terrorism.

Official sources expected that the current wave of anti-U.S. demonstrations will subside by the end of this month, but if there is a further flare-up, some measures will be considered to cope with it, they say.

President, Prime Minister Send Greetings to India

BK260330 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have sent greeting messages to Indian President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of Republic Day of India today. In his message the president expresses satisfaction over the steps taken by the two countries to realize the common objective of establishing good-neighborly relations based on mutual cooperation and an absence of tension. He said the people of Pakistan will make every effort to form a strong foundation for bilateral relations based on mutual benefit to promote peace and security in the region.

In his message to the Indian prime minister, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo reitrates that the people of Pakistan are determined to establish tension-free relations based on mutual cooperation. He expresses the hope that the proposed visit by the Indian prime minister to Pakistan will help strengthen and stabilize bilateral relations, which will benefit the people of both countries.

Prime Minister Attends Indian Republic Day Reception

BK261603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo attended a reception hosted by the Indian ambassador, S.K. Singh, on the occasion of the Indian Republic Day in Islamabad today. The prime minister asked the Indian ambassador to extend greetings on his own behalf and on behalf of the Pakistani people to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and to the Indian people. The prime minister informally mixed with the people attending the reception.

The National Assembly speaker, Syed Fakr Imam, and some federal ministers also attended the reception.

Justice Minister Comments on 'Subversive Elements'

BK261546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The government has taken serious note of increasing subversive activities in the country and is considering effective steps against subversive elements.

This was stated by the federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Iqbal Ahmad Khan, while speaking on an adjournment motion [in the National Assembly]. The motion, which was moved by Liaqat Baluch, had sought a discussion on the issue of the entry of Afghan KHAD agents into Pakistan and their subversive activities resulting in the deaths of innocent people and damage to property. He said the government would welcome proposals which might be helpful in eradicating such crimes and is ready to consider this issue in the house at any time. The mover did not press his motion after this clarification.

In another adjournment motion, the same mover asked for a discussion on the issue of the recent arrest of four subversive elements at the Quetta airport, but he did not press his motion following a statement by the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs that the information was incorrect.

Three identical adjournment motions moved by Begum Nasim A. Majid, Malik Mohammad Aslam Kachela, and Malik Abdur Rauf had sought a discussion on the issue of the alleged entry of foreign agents into tribal areas, but the movers did not press their motions following a denial by the minister for provincial and border areas affairs, Syed Qasim Shah.

Romanian Deputy Premier Arrives 25 January

BK250804 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Nicolae has said his country is ready to give assistance to Pakistan for more vital industrial ventures. He was talking to APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] on arriving Karachi this morning with his 4-member delegation. The delegation will participate in the formal inauguration tomorrow of the enlargement of the national refinery. Pakistani engineers have completed this project costing more than 2 billion rupees with Romanian assistance. It is expected that this project will yield a profit of 268 million rupees annually and save a foreign exchange of 298 million rupees. Mr Nicolae said this project is a good example of Pakistan-Romania cooperation. He paid tribute to Pakistani engineers and Romanian experts for their selfless service and hard work.

Federal Minister for Production Khaqan Abbasi and Sind Finance Minister Javed Sultan Japanwala received the Romanian deputy prime minister.

Further Details

BK270618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion M. Nicolae arrived Islamabad from Karachi this morning. Talking to Radio Pakistan's correspondent at the airport, he said he will hold talks with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and the federal ministers for trade, finance, and production on the prospects of increasing the existing cooperation between Pakistan and Romania. We will identify industrial projects in which both countries can cooperate. He added that his country will be happy to help in Pakistan's economic progress.

Referring to the [word indistinct] plan of the national refinery, which has been built with Romanian assistance, the Romanian deputy prime minister commended the technical expertise of Pakistani engineers and workers who took part with the Romanian experts in the construction of the plant.

UK Delegation Meets Chamber of Commerce Members

BK260339 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] A British trade delegation met members of the Pakistani Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Karachi yesterday. Views were exchanged on expanding trade, transferring technology, and undertaking joint ventures.

The delegation also attended a dinner given in its honor by the Overseas British-Pak Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The president of the group, Moazam Ali, said that there are possibilities for joint ventures in several areas in the private sectors of the two countries, including engineering, electronics and textiles. He also referred to the bright prospects for British investments and transfer of technology to Pakistan.

Kabul Propaganda Khyber Agency Termed 'Baseless'

BK251032 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] A prominent elder of Khyber Agency, Malik Nadir Khan Zakakhel Afridi, has said the situation in Khyber Agency is peaceful and any propaganda to the contrary is baseless and without any foundation.

He said in an interview with Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative that the hostile propaganda by the foreign-controlled Kabul Radio was aimed at diverting attention from the critical condition prevailing in Afghanistan. He said the tribesmen are true Muslims and they are not prepared to accept any ideology except Islam. They were planning to hold a joint representative jirga [assembly] of all the tribes in the seven agencies to show to the world that they stood for Islam and Pakistan. He condemned the foreign armed intervention in Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Kill 6 Soviet-Karmal Soldiers in Qandahar

BK260624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have carried out rocket and mortar attacks on a military training center in Qandahar. In this operation, 6 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and 19 were captured. A major portion of the training center was damaged in the attack.

In another Mujahidin attack in (Temurat), many Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed.

Further Mujahidin Operations

BK270225 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, mujahidin killed many Soviet-Karmal troops in Keshim area of Badakshan Province early this month. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Mujahidin attacked a patrol party in (Rebaz) District west of Faizabad and inflicted heavy losses on it.

Another report says that Karmal aircraft attacked rural areas east of Jalalabad on the 19th of this month, killing 20 civilians, most of whom were women and children.

BANGLADESH

President Sends Greetings to Rajiv Gandhi, Zail Singh

BK251622 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of the Republic Day of India. In a message he expressed the hope that deep and abiding friendship, mutual understanding, and meaningful cooperation between Bangladesh and India will further grow in the future. He conveyed his best wishes for the good health, happiness, and long life of Mr Gandhi and for the continued well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of India. The president has sent a similar message to President Giani Zail Singh.

SRI LANKA

Soldiers Open Fire at Train Station; 11 Dead

BK260856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 11 persons, including 3 women, are reported killed in the northern town of Kilinochchi last evening when some soldiers opened fire on passengers waiting at the Kilinochchi station platform. The passengers were waiting to board a Colombo-bound train. Eyewitnesses, who came to Colombo by the train, told the All India Radio correspondent there were bullet marks and bloodstains on the walls of the station building.

They said prior to the incident, bombs were reportedly thrown by militants on a security force camp adjoining the station. At least 16 injured persons have been admitted to hospitals in Kilinochchi and Jaffna.

'Terrorist' Activities Detailed

BK261122 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Tamil terrorists attacked the security forces camp at Navatkuli in Jaffna on Friday [24 January]. The attack, which began at around 1815 [1245 GMT] on Friday evening, lasted nearly 12 hours, until the early hours of yesterday morning. The terrorists used mortars, rocket-propelled guns, machine guns,and small arms and fired at the camp from all directions. The security forces returned fire with mortars, arms, and helicopter gunship and successfully repulsed the attack.

The terrorist groups responsible for the attack are the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization — TELO; Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE; and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front — EPRLF. The troops suffered no casualties. Terrorist casualties are not yet known.

Tamil terrorists attacked the army camp at Kilinochchi yesterday afternoon. They used mortars and small arms in the attack. The security forces had to deploy armored cars in the attack. On seeing the armored cars, the terrorists withdrew to a place called (Uritchitraparam). Security forces could not pursue them as the roads were mined. There were some civilian casualties as a result of the cross fire. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the security forces had successfully repulsed the attack by the terrorists.

The security forces have made fresh appeals to the citizens committees at Mullaitivu to prevent innocent civilians from being used as a cover for terrorist activities. According to LANKA PUWATH, this appeal follows terrorist attacks on the Mullaitivu camps early yesterday morning. The terrorists had fired four mortars at the camp, but the security forces did not retaliate fearing that innocent civilians may be harmed. The security forces have therefore told the citizens committees to request the public not to be in the vicinity of the terrorists or to harbor terrorists in their homes.

A gunship sent to give air power to aircraft using the Palali airport opened fire on Friday on armed terrorists who were on either side of the runway. The gunship was sent to Palali on information that terrorists belonging to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization — TELO — were trying to shoot at the aircraft landing at the airport.

The terrorists set off a landmine near the 20th mile post at Bhandaramulla in Eravur in the eastern province on Friday. LANKA PUWATH reports said that security forces patrol was proceeding on a routine road-clearing operation when the terrorists exploded the landmine. The troops were a few yards away from the landmine when the explosion took place. Special task force reinforcements were sent from Eravur and they too were attacked by the terrorists with grenades. The troops were successful in repulsing the attack.

Tamil terrorits threw hand grenades at the Vellaveli police station in Batticaloa, damaging the police station. They had also fired at the sentries at the police station, but the sentries were not hurt. The police returned fire, repulsing the attack. The police suspect that this attack was carried out as a tactic to divert the attention of the police from terrorist boat movements around the area.

Oil Ministry Official on 'Plot' of Falling Prices

LD241224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] In view of the intense fluctuations in oil prices during the past few days and their effect on the economy of the oil-producing countries, and the Iranian delegation's participation in the 27 January OPEC session, Mr Kazempur-Ardabili, the international affairs and trade undersecretary of the Oil Ministry and international affairs director at the National Iranian Oil Company, in an IRNA interview explained Iran's stances regarding the imperialist powers' plot aimed at reducing the price of oil.

He said: During the past 2 weeks the international oil market has been beset by intense fluctuations in oil prices, which reached a 2-year peak at the beginning of Azar 1364, that is, toward the end of last November. Within less than 2 weeks before OPEC's 76th session, prices dropped severely: North Sea oil went from $30.80 per barrel in Azar [November] to $23.00 after the session and to $19.95 at present for delivery in February. This has taken place at a time when demand, because of winter, had relatively improved. Only in the past few days have we witnessed a renewed reduction in demand because of lack of confidence with regard to the market.

He added: The imposition of these conditions on the oil market by the imperialist countries, which indeed constitute the original members of the International Energy Agency, was aimed at creating an economic boom in the Western countries and in those countries subservient to them, at the cost of harming OPEC members, particularly those with large populations.

The Oil Ministry's international affairs and trade undersecretary added: While condemning the policies of the imperialist countries aimed at reducing the price of oil and criticizing the stances adopted by certain OPEC members, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again emphasizes the necessity for the unity of all OPEC members aimed at countering such policies and safeguarding the interests of the nations. Iran calls on all members, by displaying self-control and resistance in supplying oil, to bring about conditions for stabilizing the price of oil.

He also said: Declaring its adherence to the quotas and prices specified by OPEC, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all members to take rapid action to curb supplies exceeding their quotas, at present carried out by certain members, and to refrain from adopting methods of selling which deprive OPEC of the lever of determining prices.

He added: The nation and revolutionary government of Iran in declaring this stand warns all OPEC members that their respective nations will not tolerate adopting such wrong policies.

The Oil Ministry's international affairs and trade undersecretary, condemning the reactionary policies within OPEC, said: With the cooperation of such progressive OPEC members as Libya and Algeria which are determined to confront the adoption of reactionary policies, while condemning Iraq's over-production and criticizing Saudi Arabia and Nigeria for deviating from their specified quotas and adopting selling methods in violation of OPEC rules, Iran calls on them and on all OPEC members to reduce the level of OPEC production in order to maintain official prices.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran deems the increase in production and adoption of the gross policies by the North Sea producers — Britain and Norway — as an instrument for imposing the will of the imperialist quarters. Iran calls on all OPEC members to study the issue of boycotting commercial purchases or imposing import restrictions on good manufactured by these two countries and to apply the same should the policies aimed at reducing the price of oil continue.

Explaining this, he said: The setting up of barriers to the import of labor intensive goods, which could cause an increase in unemployment in these two countries, should top the list of the measures to be adopted by OPEC members against these two countries.

Criticizing the governments of Oman and Dubai for allowing the multinational companies to reduce their oil prices by more than $4.00 per barrel during the past month, he also called on them to prevent such a trend, and in order to safeguard the interests of their nations to take rapid action to implement policies of price increases.

Concluding the interview, the Oil Ministry's international affairs and trade undersecretary called on other countries which are not members of OPEC — such as Mexico, Malaysia, the PRC, the USSR and Angola — by fully coordinating their actions with OPEC aimed at safeguarding their own interests to cooperate further with that organization.

Oil Minister Announces Reduction in Oil Quota

LD251332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Mr Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum today took part in a radio and TV interview and announced that for the past 10 days the Islamic Republic of Iran has reduced its quota of oil ready for delivery to international market because the reduced prices for oil in international markets have not been accepted. It is hoped that other OPEC countries would follow suit and reduce their oil delivered to markets. The petroleum minister added: Because of the reduction in oil prices, Iran has only honored its long term contracts and has refrained from selling its oil on the spot market which has been influenced by the present reduced prices.

Regarding Britain's role in the serious reduction of oil prices in the market, the oil minister said: Following the increase in the U.S. budget deficit and the deterioration of the economic situation in industrial countries during the past few months, America and the industrial countries of Europe agreed to devalue the dollar in order to improve the state of the American economy. These countries secretly agreed to reduce oil prices; the prime instigator in this connection was Britain. Britain has followed a corrupt policy during the past few rounds and, relying on the 5 billion barrels of oil stored in industrial countries, it acted speedily to reduce the price of the North Sea oil and brought about the serious reduction in oil prices on international markets.

He added: With lower oil prices, Britain will lose millions of dollars from oil tax revenue; but because of the agreement reached with America and its other allies, they will meet Britain's expenses and losses resulting from the price reduction.

The petroleum minister referred to Saudi Arabia's announcement of another increase in oil exports, which stand at 5 to 6 million barrels per day, and pointed to some OPEC members' inclination to supply crude oil to the market which is done under the pretext of gaining OPEC's rightful share of international oil market. He said: Some OPEC members, knowingly or otherwise, have taken part in the conspiracies hatched by America and Britain aimed at lowering oil prices, thus reducing the income of OPEC countries and plotting to defeat OPEC as the organization which determines oil prices. Therefore, these countries are helping to create a price war, the intensification of which would result in serious reduction of the income of all oil-producing countries. He added: With the repeated reductions in oil prices, OPEC countries have had to accept reduced incomes and deal with financial problems in continuing their economic programs. Most of these countries will not be able to meet the reduction in their income by increasing their oil production in circumstances where increased oil supply keeps prices under pressure. OPEC should realize the threat of such a situation.

The oil minister added: We are against any method which might prevent OPEC from determining oil prices and therefore will back any policy which, according to OPEC's charter, will leave the setting of oil prices to OPEC. The oil minister added: Defending the oil prices depends on OPEC's resistance. If OPEC countries organize a coordinated and united resistance, they will be able to foil the plot to lower oil prices. In order to fight the oil price situation, Mr Aqazadeh suggested a short term reduction in the amount of oil delivered to the oil market by OPEC countries. Since OPEC countries are major importers of American and European goods, they should study the possibility of using their imports as a weapon.

The correspondent of the Central News Unit reports that the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked oil exporting countries to consider the policies followed by North Sea oil-producing countries, aimed at lowering oil prices, as the means used by imperialist sources to impose their will. Oil-exporting countries should, in retaliation, study economic sanctions or impose import limits for goods made in such countries. If the policy of reducing oil prices is followed further, then such methods should be implemented.

Commenting on the future of OPEC, Mr Aqazadeh said: The rapid trend of the past 2 weeks in severely reducing oil prices down to less than $20 on the market, can not continue in the long term and will bring about new circumstances. The petroleum minister added: OPEC will suffer hardships in the short term during which time solidarity within the organization will be put to the test. The oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Those who talk about regaining OPEC's share of oil supply in the market should realize that world oppression intends to return this share to OPEC at the expense of serious price reductions.

Therefore, any attempt to increase oil production quotas and to supply more of OPEC's oil to the market should be considered as a conspiracy. The consumer market for oil will not demand more oil production. But, if OPEC weathers the next 2 years and does not flood the market with oil -- which would only serve to fill the oil stores of America and European countries, stores which are used as a weapon against OPEC -- the future of OPEC countries will be promising.

The petroleum minister referred to the depleting oil production of non-OPEC countries and said: OPEC should postpone drawing up its plans for 1 or 2 years. International estimates indicate that as of 1990 oil production of non-OPEC countries will be reduced and, therefore, OPEC's share of the oil market will increase.

Musavi Announces Oil Production Cut in Half

LD261244 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text]Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that in an effort to thwart plots aimed at weakening oil exporting countries, Iran has decided to cut its oil production by half until further notice. Speaking after the cabinet session, also attended by President 'Ali Khamene'i, the prime minister added that Iran will only meet its long-term agreements and called on other oil producers to join Iran in this measure.

The prime minister commenting on recent efforts to push oil prices down, said that it was a well calculated and continuous plot of Western countries aimed at weakening oil exporting countries. However, he added, at present the oil producers were in a position to foil this plot. The Islamic Republic of Iran has pioneered in thwarting the plot, however, Iran alone could not shoulder the responsibility that rests on all oil producing countries, he added.

During the session latest economic and political developments of the country and also the outcome of the recent trip of President Khamene'i to Pakistan were discussed. Addressing the cabinet, the president referred to the long-standing cultural ties between Iran and Pakistan and said that in its foreign policy strategy, the Islamic Republic of Iran should attach special importance to Asia. "Strong friendly relations between Iran and Pakistan will be of great importance for independence and progress of the nations of the region," he added.

Khamene'i Friday Sermon on Afro-Asia Tour, Oil Prices

LD241330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text]Simultaneous with the days marking the martyrdom of the beloved daughter of Islam's prophet, Fatimah the radiant, the politico-religious Friday prayers ceremonies were held throughout the country today. Tehran's Muslim people, too, with their presence at Tehran University and surrounding thoroughfares, observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today.

During the Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran today, held with the participation of a large group of volunteer popular forces to be sent to the front from Khorasan Province, Tehran's Friday imam on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of Fatimah

the radiant recalled certain aspects of the lofty attributes of the great lady of Islam as a peerless model to Muslim women and spoke in detail about that holy person's onerous life.

Referring to his recent visit to Pakistan and the Frontline States fighting the racist South African regime, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i then said: Despite the perennial plot by the news networks of world arrogance, this visit has produced extensive repercussions throughout the world in political quarters, and its outcomes have gladdened the friends of the Iranian nation and angered its enemies.

Referring to the warm and unprecedented welcome given by the Pakistani nation to the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president said: The Pakistani president, so astonished by the unprecedented welcome accorded by the Pakistani people to the representatives of the Islamic Republic said: This crowd is so vast that we are neither capable of bringing them here by force nor capable of ejecting them by force.

Referring to his visit to Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, constituting the Frontline States fighting the racist regime of South Africa, Khamene'i described the prime motive for visiting these countries as being Iran's support for the righteous struggles of the oppressed nations of Africa against the Pretoria regime, and added: Iran, which has raised man's cry for freedom, cannot remain indifferent to the crimes perpetrated by the South African regime against the wronged African nations. I, as representative of the Iranian nation, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council and the envoy of the Islamic revolution of Iran, left a country at war in order to tell the wronged people of Africa that our nation is on the side of the fighting people of Africa, and that we will support the people of that continent with all our means.

Referring to the harsh blows suffered by the deprived nations of Africa over hundreds of years from the European colonialists, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i mentioned the unprecedented welcome accorded by the Pakistani people and the Frontline States to the responsible officials from Iran: For the peoples of these countries the issue was not who was visiting their country. They did not hasten to welcome a person or persons. They came to welcome Islam and Iran; this ardor and love shown by the people of Pakistan and of the Frontline States in their welcome speaks of the fact that the ground for unity between world Muslims has become extremely favorable. As a result of this visit we resolved to work hard to bring about unshakable Islamic unity for 1 billion Muslims worldwide.

Tehran's Friday imam added: On our tour of African countries an African Muslim told us: Your coming to Africa was like the coming of Ja'far ibn Abu Talib at the inception of Islam: just as he introduced Islam into Africa you, too, have also introduced the fresh breath of Islam into Africa. Africa's fighting organizations, too, told us: We are drawing our strength and inspiration from your and your nation.

Continuating his sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i referred to the reduction in the price of North Sea oil as a major plot by world arrogance against OPEC members and added: Britain, whose entire history is one of colonialism and torture of nations, reduced the price of its oil by some $10 per barrel within a few days, while on the other hand increasing the exports of its oil. This is nothing else but a plot. Britain is a tool for a U.S. victory and a success over OPEC members. Our message to OPEC members is one of resistance regarding this plot, and the Islamic Republic of iran will confront this conspiracy.

Further Details

LD241755 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — The leader of the Friday congregational prayers in Tehran, President Khamene'i, said here Friday that his recent visit to Islamabad, Lahore, Dar es Salaam, Maputo, and Luanda, had served very much to inform the African and Asian peoples of Iran's position towards the "exploitative" policies of the big powers in Asia and Africa.

President Khamene'i who was sermonizing at the Friday mass prayers and addressing a massive group of worshippers in and around the compounds of Tehran University at noontime here Friday said a fervor for Islam rages high among the people of Pakistan and in the African countries he visited and noted despite its inherent fear of an eventual unity between Muslim nations, the world "colonialism" has failed to exterminate Islam as a common cause for unity between world's Muslim nations.

Khamene'i said in his meetings with the leaders of the said countries he had asserted Iran's outlooks of the intrinsic friction of the idea of independence and sovereignty for some African countries with Washington's policies in Africa. He said he had told the Angolan leader that all past experience of the world Muslims demonstrates that the more Muslims yield to aggressors the more the latter will indulge in their aggressive acts. He cited the case of the Jerusalem occupying regime and its encroachment upon Lebanon as a vivid example of what submission to an enemy may bring in its wake.

President Khamene'i said in his talks with leaders of African governments he had assured them that the United States would not "of its own accord" step out of Africa and leave the African peoples to themselves, and that therefore their fight for freedom and independence should be a fighting with the United States. He said he had also told the African leaders that it would be a gross mistake to try to expect help from Washington in their efforts for protecting themselves from the aggression of the Pretoria government.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,360

LD241731 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombed 'Darluk' garrison of Iraq and a concentration center of Iraqi troops in southeast of the Iraqi city of Al-'Amadiyah 100 kms from Iranian city of Oshnoviyeh, at 12:15 hours (08:45 hours GMT) Friday, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Friday. In its communique number 2360, the command says that Iranian jet fighters after successfully bom-

barding their targets, at 37.03 north and 43.39 east coordinates, and inflicting heavy losses on Iraqi forces returned to their bases safely. In the western fronts, the command says, Iran's Muslim combatants disrupted engineering operations of Iraqi forces near Kani-Sheykh and Semar and checked Iraqi armoured units in areas overlooking Sumar Thursday.

Iran's Muslim forces exchanged heavy artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops in Shahrani and Majnun Island, southern fronts, and minimized Iraqi aerial operations in the said fronts Thursday according to the communique. Despite the bad weather of the northwestern fronts Thursday, Iranian forces dispatched to patrol units and pounded Iraqi positions with their artillery and mortar fire inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, reports the joint staff.

Iraqi Troops Shelled Across River

LD241829 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 24, IRNA — At least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed and three bulldozers and loaders together with one artillery emplacement of theirs were demolished across the Arvand River Thursday as their positions were subjected to Iranian artillery fire, a report reaching here said Friday. The report said that the Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in west of the Arvand River Thursday also destroyed one munitions dump and five bunkers of Iraqi forces.

According to another report from Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Province, Iran's Muslim combatants opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts, killing or wounding at least 23 Iraqi soldiers and destroying 11 bunkers and one observation post of theirs.

Communique No 2,361

LD251717 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants exchanged heavy artillery fire with Iraqi troops in the western fronts Friday, killing or wounding at least 40 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing 20 artillery emplacements and four vehicles of theirs, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday. In its communique number 2361, the command says that Iranian artillery fire on the Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Friday killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroyed five Iraqi light and heavy vehicles. Parts of Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts were also set ablaze.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, exchange of fire continued more heavily in Hoseyniyeh and Majnun Islands Friday during which Iranian artillery hit a group of Iraqi tanks in areas overlooking Chazzabeh inflicting heavy casualties and losses. Iran's gendarmerie forces subjected Iraqi positions across the Arvand River to their artillery fire Friday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, reports the joint staff. One Iraqi motorized unit was checked by Iranian Muslim combatants in Mehran operational region Friday, according to the communique. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was target of Iraqi long-range artillery fire Friday as a result of which some buildings were damaged.

Communique No 2,362

LD261554 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombed Iraq's 'Golak' garrison at 36:36 north and 44:10 east coordinates west of Rawanduz, at 11:09 (07:39 hours GMT) Sunday. The Iranian jet fighters all returned to their bases safely, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Sunday.

In its communique number 2362, the command says that Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions in the Western fronts Saturday killing or wounding at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and destroying several Iraqi gun emplacements. Iran's Muslim combatants stationed in the western fronts also forced a group of Iraqi patrols to flee in Kani-Sheykh and checked engineering operation of Iraqi forces in Helaleh saturday, according to the communique.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim forces exchanged artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops Saturday, silencing their artillery and inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them. Some Iraqi tanks both in Hoseyniyeh and Al-'Amarah were checked by Iranian artillery fire Saturday as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses, reports the command. Iran's gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the fronts Saturday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and halting their combat and engineering operations. Meanwhile Abadan and Khorramshahr, both in Khuzestan Province, were hit by Iraqi sporadic artillery fire saturday as a result of which some buildings in Abadan were damaged.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

Two Soviet planes carrying medical and food supplies arrived at Aden airport 27 January, Aden radio reported, adding that the delivery of such aid confirms the Soviet Union's "honest and firm principled stands" toward the people of the PDRY. Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, acting chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, expressed "thanks and appreciation" for Soviet support in a speech broadcast by the radio, lauding the results of his recent talks with the Soviet leadership in Moscow. Al-'Attas also expressed appreciation for the stands of the leaders of the YAR, Ethiopia, Syria, and Algeria. On the internal situation, he said efforts are underway to restore social and public services and provide medical treatment to the "thousands" injured in the fighting. A political commentary by Aden radio warned that no assistance should be given to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's "gang of killers," who should not be allowed to use the territories of neighboring states to conduct their "destructive activity."

Meanwhile, Radio Monte Carlo cited unconfirmed reports that some 50,000 supporters of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad have gathered outside Aden, awaiting orders to attack the city. 'Ali Nasir's radio in Abyan has urged inhabitants of Aden to leave the city in preparation for the expected battles, Radio Monte Carlo noted. The UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ* also reported on the broadcasts by 'Ali Nasir's radio, disclosing that its transmissions are clearly heard in the YAR-PDRY border area and in Sanaa. The radio has carried statements denouncing the "illegal decisions" of the "separatist clique" in Aden and announcing 'Ali Nasir's intention to convene a YSP Central Committee meeting. *AL-KHALIJ disclosed. As for the Soviet role in the crisis, Soviet* diplomatic sources in Sanaa cited by *AL-KHALIJ* asserted that the Soviet Union is not mediating between the two warring sides, adding that the USSR adheres to its view that no external party has any right to intervene in the dispute.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reaffirmed Libya's "right to defend" the Gulf of Sidra in a speech broadcast by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, contending that "all the peoples on earth" support Libya on this issue. Speaking at an "international communities congress" in the Libyan capital, Al-Qadhdhafi told foreigners in the audience that they have the same right as their Libyan "brothers" to join the Libyan Armed Forces and train at Libyan military institutions.

OPEC Affairs

Libya and Saudi Arabia have agreed on the need to hold an OPEC emergency meeting to discuss the "collapse" in the oil market, WAKH reported citing a statement by a Libyan Revolutionary Command Council member to the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD*. In a related development, MENA disclosed that Egypt has decided to cut its production of crude oil by 200,000 barrels per day in response to the "current crisis" in the market. Egypt will also lower the price of crude oil it sells to Israel as of the beginning of February, according to Jerusalem radio.

Egypt-Israel

Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned to Israel after his meetings in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak without a "firm date" for a summit meeting between Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid announced that Egyptian and Israeli experts will resume talks on the Taba issue "next week," Cairo radio reported.

Jordan-PLO

Talks in Amman between Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat have thus far yielded "no decisive result," the *JORDAN TIMES* reported citing Jordanian official sources. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said that the meeting was held in a "good and positive" atmosphere and that the talks will continue "for several days," Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit a large maritime target and a vessel used for laying oil pipelines and attacked four Iranian military camps, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian claim that Iraqi aircraft attacked Eynkhosh with chemical weapons, INA reported. Meanwhile, Iraqi air attacks on Iranian civilian areas claimed the lives of 21 people, according to an Iranian Joint Staff communique cited by IRNA.

Lebanon

In view of the failure to convene a cabinet session 27 January, President Amin al-Jumayyil will deliver the tripartite agreement to the Chamber of Deputies, former President Camille Sham'un disclosed in remarks reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Prime Minister Rashid Karami and five other ministers boycotted the emergency cabinet meeting called by President al-Jumayyil, the radio noted. Meanwhile, Amal Movement Political Bureau Chairman 'Akif Haydar stressed that a political solution is impossible unless Al-Jumayyil resigns from the Presidency, according to Beirut radio.

Pakistan-DRA

Two DRA helicopters strafed the Pakistani town of Parachinar, killing 5 people and injuring 13 others, AFP reported citing Pakistani official sources.

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President Criticises U.S. Aid to Rebels

PM27 i403 London MORNING STAR in English 27 Jan 86 p 2

[Interview with Afghan President Babrak Karmal by Muhammad Arif and Ron Brown in Afghanistan — date not given]

[Text] Q: What progress has been achieved in Afghanistan since 1981, when British MPs first visited your country. For example, how is the economy doing and could you tell us something about your social reforms?
A: Despite a war situation, many improvements in economic, social, political and cultural fields have been realised although four years is a very limited time to develop a backward country and to implement fundamental social change.

However, in the course of this period we have encouraged working people to participate in the administration of the state, having guaranteed civil liberties, including equal rights for both women and men, religious freedom and protection for ethnic minorities, as well as the right to health care and education without discrimination. In addition workers have been encouraged to join trade unions. In rural areas peasants and their communities have been given further opportunities through voluntary participation in the National Fatherland Front.

We have also encouraged tribesmen to play their part through the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) and frontier jirgas. In short, we are moving toward national reconciliation with the help of a flexible policy and principled compromises. This, in turn, has helped us press ahead with land and water reforms so that more farming cooperatives can be established with the latest technology.

In the industrial field, too, thanks to support from the private sector, enterprises have now stimulated major growth in our economy — the volume of production being 5 per cent higher than the year before the Revolution. But as we are investing heavily in transportation and construction projects, we will do much better in the future.

Q: This leads us to the security question. Are counterrevolutionaries still active and are you winning?
A: Yes, the counter-revolutionaries still make life difficult for our people through terror tactics and economic blackmail, but only because the U.S. has so far spent over two billion dollars financing and arming these gangsters from bases in Pakistan. Despite this activity we have been able to build up our economy, but we need peace if we are to forge ahead as planned, bringing our country, with a 95 percent illiteracy rate, into the 20th century.

Are we winning? Of course. We have now broadened our support through the National Fatherland Front, and by making use of an amnesty decree many opponents have now joined us. Also our tribesmen, recognising the benefits of our reforms, have expressed support for the revolution through their traditional jirgas. Even our enemies cannot gloss over these basic facts.

Q: Can you say something about the border situation and why Pakistan is attacking the Afridi tribesmen?
A: The free tribes, who are our kith and kin, have held jirgas opposing the use of their territory by counter-revolutionary bands. This has enraged Pakistan's military dictatorship and their American backers. Obviously, then, we will not remain indifferent if our people in the border regions continue to be attacked by Zia's forces.

Q: What is your view of the recent Reagan/Gorbachev talks?
A: With the threat of nuclear conflict, the agreements reflected in the joint declaration have profound significance. However, vital problems such as the halting of the arms race and consolidation of a durable global peace plan have still to be realised, bearing in mind that further massive expenditure in space wars technology is not only wasteful, but dangerous. The Soviet Union is therefore correct to put forward constructive proposals which demand a positive response from the U.S. if she wants to remain faithful to the Geneva Accord.

Q: Do you think the current talks in Geneva will help Afghanistan?
A: As mentioned in my previous answers, many of our problems arise from American interference in our country's internal affairs, using its allies and agents in other countries. Like the Nazis, the U.S. has declared different parts of the world as zones of vital interest, including Afghanistan. But we will not tolerate this imperialist approach to our affairs. However, if Pakistan and the U.S. genuinely want a solution to outstanding problems we are willing to meet them for direct talks, and with an agreement to stop the undeclared war against Afghanistan we will ensure that the Soviet troops return home.

Q: Would you go to London if the British government arranged direct negotiations or would you prefer a conference for this purpose to be held in Kabul?
A: In our view direct talks should be held in Geneva, not London, but any conference must be chaired by the UN. However, anything the British government can do to bring this about would be helpful.

PDPA Delegation Departs for Cuban Congress

LD271951 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, heading a PDPA Central Committee delegation, today left for Havana to take part in the work of the congress of the Cuba's Communist Party. Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the Party Central Committee, and the ambassador of Cuba in Kabul were present at Kabul international airport to see them off.

Cooperation Agreement With GDR Signed

LD272031 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry and the GDR Foreign Affairs Ministry was

signed today at the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs. The agreement was signed by Sarwar Yuresh, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs, for the DRA side, and by Kurt Krueger, GDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Kabul.

International Trade Relations Detailed
LD240001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Excerpts] In the light of the rational and principled policy of the DRA Government, the international economic relations of the DRA are being extended in a normal manner within the limits of economic and technical possibilities. Broadening of trade between countries requires bilateral cooperation. Fortunately, this cooperation, particularly with the financial and commercial assistance of the Soviet Union, is increasing satisfactorily for the interest of the country and our people.

As a result of selfless and fraternal assistance, sufficient quantities of commodities and goods -- the basic needs of the country such as wheat, sugar cooking oil, tea, soap, fabrics, and raw material for factories — have been imported from the Soviet Union and other countries and have been put at the disposal of the toiling people of the country.

The volume of the country's foreign trade in addition to the grant-in-aid and project assistance, reached $1.68 billion last year, which in view of the envisaged plan indicates an increase of 21 percent. The Soviet Union, by purchasing $370 million worth of goods from the DRA, has taken a 56 percent share of DRA exports, and by selling $515 million worth of goods has taken a 57 percent share of DRA imports. The rest of the socialist countries took a 3 percent share in DRA exports and a 6 percent share of the imports last year.

The DRA has normal trade with India, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Canada, China, Taiwan, and a number of the West European countries [words indistinct] and the DRA desires further expansion of trade with these countries.

Mohammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce, said on the domestic trade of the country: Fortunately, during the recent years, the turnover of the domestic trade by government enterprises is increased. The volume of retail sales by government enterprises reach 14.3 billion afghanis which indicates an increase of 26 percent more than planned.

Riyadh Reports Mujahidin Operations in Qandahar
GF260642 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have attacked three positions belonging to the Afghan regime forces which are supported by the USSR in Qandahar Province 8 km from the border with Pakistan.

In the attack, the mujahidin killed three soldiers and captured four others.

AFP: 260 Rebels Killed
HK281224 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan troops have killed 260 rebels and injured at least 60 civilians in two major operations along the Pakistani and Iranian borders, Western diplomats said here today.

The security forces, using some 400 military vehicles, killed 140 mujahidin guerrillas in a three-day security sweep beginning January 17 through the Gushta District of Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, which borders Pakistan, the diplomats said. The rebels claimed they destroyed six tanks, two helicopters and an air force jet in the fighting. The Soviet forces suffered unknown casualties.

A total of 120 mujahidin were killed and at least 60 civilians were injured when security forces bombarded a guerrilla hideout at the city of Herat on the border with Iran on January 12, the diplomats said.

The diplomats also reported there had been shooting at the Secretariat of the Afghan Prime Minister Soltan Ali Keshtmand last week. They said the shooting lasted 20 minutes, and may have been a result of a dispute between factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The party organ *HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB (REALITY OF THE REVOLUTION)*, called for party unity in an editorial the following day.

Rebels last week carried out rocket attacks on Soviet military installations and other targets in Kabul, including the vicinity of the Inter-Continental Hotel, where Western journalists were staying.

Gandhi Asks 2 Ministers To Resign Over Spy Link

HK280632 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT Jan 86

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi asked two cabinet ministers to resign yesterday after investigations linked them to a alleged foreign spy network busted last year, newspapers reported today. In a surprise move, Mr. Gandhi asked minister for rural development, Chandulal Chandrakar and Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, K. P. Singh Deo to quit.

THE TIMES OF INDIA reported the two were linked with an alleged spy network run by businessman Ram Swarup who is facing charges of spying for Taiwan and perhaps Western intelligence agencies. "This is the first time that two ... ministers had to resign for being named in an espionage case", the newspaper said. A similar report was carried by *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* which reported that the Chief of the Electronic Commission, Sanjeevi Rao, [who] was also asked to resign had been named in Mr. Swarup's confession. No immediate comment was available from the government or the two ministers.

Mr. Swarup, chief of an organisation known as the Anti-Communist League, was arrested late last year on his return from a visit to the Far East. The two ministers had been named in the charge sheet in the Ram Swarup case, *THE TIMES OF INDIA* reported. No date has yet been fixed for the Swarup trial.

This is the second espionage scandal in almost a year to have rocked the government, observers noted. A year ago, principal secretary to the Prime Minister P. C. Alexander, had to resign following the involvement of his secretary in the Coomar Narain espionage case. French ambassador Serge Boidevaix, the French deputy Military Attache, five Soviet, one Polish and two East German Diplomats had to leave India following the busting of the Narain network.

Further Details

HK281218 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP) — Two Indian ministers have resigned because they accepted invitations to visit Taiwan from a man later accused of spying for Taipei, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported today.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi yesterday asked two ministers — Minister of State for Rural Development Chandulal Chandrakar and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.P. Singh Deo — to resign after investigations associated them with an alleged foreign spy network busted last year. M. S. Sanjeevi Rao, chairman of the Electronic Commission, also resigned.

The agency quoted authoritative sources as having said Indian businessman Ram Swarup, who is accused of running an spy network for Taiwan, had invited all three to visit Taiwan. The agency said the two ministers had resigned "to uphold high public morality because they had unwittingly accepted invitations to visit Taiwan from a person later charged with espionage activity." Mr. Chandrakar, a journalist by profession, visited Taiwan with a party of other Indian journalists before he became a member of parliament. Said Mr. Chandrakar: "Since my name was mentioned by Mr. Swarup, propriety demanded that I should not remain in ministerial office." The agency's sources said that by leaving office the ministers would improve their chances of being absolved of suspicion. All the three are understood to have offered to face an impartial investigation to enable them clear their names, the agency added.

Libya Calls For 'Emergency' Nonaligned Meeting

BK280306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Libya has urged India as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to call for an emergency session of nonaligned foreign ministers to discuss the threat caused by U.S. actions in the Mediterranean. The Libyan foreign minister has sent a letter in this regard to the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat. He has also sent a communication to the UN secretary general urging him to take measures vested in him under the UN Charter.

Further Reportage on Visit of Greek President

Lauds Soviet Nuclear Proposal

BK260351 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The prime minister of Greece, Dr Andreas Papandreou, has described the Soviet proposal for a total elimination of nuclear arms by the end of this century as worthwhile. He has urged the United States to accept the proposal in the interest of peace and survival of mankind. Delivering the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad memorial lecture on striving for peace, Dr Papandreou expressed strong opposition to the U.S. "star wars" project and said that the project contravenes the basic principles of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

Earlier, in his welcome address the vice-president, Mr R. Venkataraman, described Dr Papandreou as a great crusader against the nuclear arms race. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, presented a memento to the Greek prime minister.

Comments on U.S. Bases

BK271021 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The six nations, which issued a declaration on disarmament from Delhi, are planning an initiative in support of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev's proposal.

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the prime minister of Greece, who is one of the signatories to the delcaration, told a news conference in New Delhi today that work has already been done at lower levels. The top leaders will issue a joint statement in the next few weeks in this connection. There will be other meetings of leaders of the six nations well before the projected summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev later this year. The other signatories to the 6-nation declaration are Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania besides India. Mr Papandreou described

M. Gorbachev's proposal as one of the most positive moves that could have been made. He said he had discussed the proposal with prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and they are in complete agreement with the proposal which envisaged elimination of nuclear weapons before the end of the century.

Replying to a question, the Greek prime minister said his country will not allow its territory to be used by the United States for any action against Libya.

Referring to Indo-Greek relations, he said though these are good, a great deal can be done to promote them further as there is a great potential for economic cooperation.

USSR's Kuznetsov, Delegation Visit Bangalore

BK271419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] An 18-member Soviet parliamentary delegation now on a tour of India arrived in Bangalore today on a 2-day visit of the city. It was led by Mr Kuznetsov, first vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Continuing Reportage on Unrest, Clashes Among Sikhs

Akal Takht Head Priest Removed

BK261619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The kar seva [voluntary service] of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikhs] in Amritsar started today. The five saints who were authorized jointly by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee [SGPC], all India Sikh Students Federation and Dum Dami Takshal began it by making cuts on the front balcony of the second floor of the Akal Takht. The kar seva began after the Sarbat Khalsa [World Sikh Convention] gave its approval.

Dum Dami Sarbat Khalsa Takshal sponsored meeting at Akal Takht in the Golden Temple complex today removed the head priest of Akal Takht, Jathedar Kripal Singh and announced constitution of a committee to look after the affairs of Sikh gurdwaras in place of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. It adopted a resolution appointing Mr Jasbir Singh Rode, a detained nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as new head priest of Akal Takht.

The resolution said that till his release a leader of the Dum Dami Takshal, Mr Gurdev Singh, will act as the head priest. It has sacked Giani Sahib Singh, head Granthi [priest] of Golden Temple and sought resignations from the head priest of Dum Dama Sahib, Sant Lakha Singh, Kesgarh Sahib, Jathedar Harcharan Singh Mahalon, and head granthi of Akal Takht, Giani Preetam Singh.

In a sharp reaction, the SGPC president, Mr G.S. Tohra, described the resolution as totaly wrong and anti-panth [Sikh]. He has convened an emergency general house meeting of the SGPC at Anantpur Sahib on 28 January to take stock of the situation created by the decisions of the Sarbat Khalsa.

Akali Dal Condemns Dismissal

BK271611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The Akali Dal has condemned the allegedly illegal activity which took place in the Golden Temple complex yesterday. A resolution adopted at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh said these acts are against the tenets of Sikhism. It said the SGPC [Shiromabi Gurdwara Prabandhak — Sikh temple management committee] is the only democratically constituted body responsible for the management of the gurdwaras. The right to summon the Sarbat Khalsa [World Sikh Convention] rests only with the chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikhs] and the appointment of jathedars [priests] can be done only as per the Gurdwara Act, the resolution stated.

The meeting appealed to the entire Sikh panth [community] to give the cooperation to the Akali Dal and the SGPC for maintaining the high traditions and sanctity of Shri Darbara Sahib [Golden Temple] and Shri Akal Takht Sahib. The meeting was presided over by the party president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. The party MP's, MLA's [members of legislative assembly], district presidents and senior Akali Dal leaders took part.

Releasing the resolution to newsmen, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee chief, Mr G.S. Tohra, said an informal meeting of the SGPC will be held at Anantpur Sahib tomorrow to decide the future course of action. He said he is against any confrontation within the Golden Temple complex. But at the same time any violation of the Sikh tradition and sanctity of a religious place cannot be tolerated, he added.

Militants Begin Demolition of Temple

HK270838 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Japan 27 (AFP) — Sikh militants today began demolishing the Akal Takht in the Golden Temple here after hoisting the flag of Khalistan, the name of the separate Sikh state they seek, eyewitnesses said.

About a dozen of the saffron flags were hoisted above the temple, the Sikh religion's holiest shine, before about 100 volunteers equipped with hammers began demolishing the Akal Takht, the highest seat of Sikh temporal authority, the eyewitnesses said. The building was badly damaged when the Indian army stormed the temple in June 1984 to flush out armed Sikh militants, and later repaired. But the work was done with government assistance and without the approval of the Sikh religious authorities, so the militants decided to demolish the building and rebuild it themselves. Police and supporters of the Sikh moderates' Akali Dal party were absent from the temple premises today, leaving the shrine under the militants' control, the eyewitnesses said.

Sikh moderates last year struck a deal with the federal government intended to end an often violent campaign for greater autonomy for the northern Indian state of Punjab, the Sikh

homeland. But militants rejected the deal and continued to campaign for a separate Sikh state.

Troops Build Bunkers Around Temple

HK281318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 28 Jan 86

[By Rajinder Beri]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 28 (AFP) — Indian paramilitary troops began building sand bunkers around the Golden Temple here today, eyewitnesses said as some 600 Sikh militants remained in control of the shrine they took over Sunday. "We are not going to quit our most sacred shrine.... it is our right to stay here," militant spokesman Mohkam Singh said, reacting to the buildup.

Units from the Indian paramilitary border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) began setting up the bunkers with sand bags atop the buildings around the Golden Temple, the eyewitnesses said. "Since this morning they have made 12 such bunkers, and the troops are armed," one eyewitnesses said. The temple was the scene of fierce fighting between the army and armed militants in June 1984. Some 650 people were killed in Operation Blue Star, launched to clear the shrine of the militants. "The scene looks like the pre-Blue Star days, though the militants inside have very few firearms," an eyewitness told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

Official sources refused to say if another operation was being planned. They described the buildup as a "precautionary measure," but did not elaborate.

Eyewitnesses said that some 600 militants as well as some 4,000 pilgrims were inside the shrine. "They look like pilgrims, but who knows how many of them are militants or at least their sympathisers," one local source said. The city was appeared to be unaffected by the activity at the temple.

Sources close to the administration here said that even if the government decided to clear the militants, there would not be much bloodshed. "The militants inside mostly have swords and spears and very few guns, mostly British vintage rifles... if there is a police action, there will be lot of noise, but few casualties," one source said.

The moderates, who left the shrine Sunday when some 15,000 militants arrived, were meeting in Anantpur Sahib today to review the situation, domestic news agencies reported.

The militants, mostly students, took over the shrine pledging to continue their "holy war" for an independent Sikh homeland. The moderates, who ended an autonomy drive with an accord with the federal government last July, are in power in the state.

In New Delhi, the Indian press called for state and federal government intervention in the situation.

A senior Home Ministry official said the federal government "would prefer the Sikhs themselves to find a solution to this. Of course the responsibility to maintain law and order is that of the Punjab Government. The central government is watching the situation very closely."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported from Anantpur Sahib that the moderates' meeting today requested the chief priest of the Akal Takht, Kirpal Singh, who was ousted by the militants on Sunday, to summon a convention as soon as possible. A similar convention called by the militants at the Golden Temple Sunday announced the "dissolution" of the powerful Sikh temples managing committee, led by moderate leader G.S. Tohra, and removed top Sikh priests of the holiest Sikh shrine.

The militant convention also "excommunicated" federal president Zail Singh and a minister in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government for their alleged anti-Sikh activities during and after the June 1984 Indian Army assault. Mr Singh and the minister are Sikhs. The convention being sought by the moderates was seen by observers as a move to counter the militants' actions and to remedy the situation.

500 Preventive Arrests Made in Uttar Pradesh

BK280325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh [UP] Government has made elaborate arrangements all over the state to maintain law and order in view of the rasta roko [road blockade] call given by the Lok Dal [opposition party] for today. The state government has made 500 preventive arrests in view of the agitiation. These include 12 MLA's [members of the legislative assembly].

An official spokesman said in Lucknow that prohibitory orders have been promulgated at various places. He said that efforts are being made to ensure that neither rail nor road traffic is dislocated. He, however, said that district magistrates have been advised to order suspension of UP state roadways buses between 0900 and 1700 if necessary.

Police pickets are being posted at sensitive points and vital installations in the state. All educational institutions in Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Allahabad and Lucknow have been closed as a precautionary measure.

Strike Has 'No Impact'

BK280917 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the rasta roko [road block] call given by the Lok Dal evoked no response. The All India Radio Lucknow correspondent who went around a number of localities in the city reports that government buses and other road transport are plying normally. Shops and business establishments are open. Government offices and banks are functioning normally.

An official spokesman said that according to the reports received at Lucknow so far no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the state barring a few incidents of brickbatting. State transport buses are plying normally. Shops and business establishments are open. The spokesman said trains passing through

the state are also running as usual. According to police sources Lok Dal workers who tried to disrupt the movement of traffic were rounded up in different parts of the state.

The official spokesman also said about 2,500 persons were arrested in this connection. They include over two dozen members of the legislative assembly. The leader of the opposition party in the assembly, Mr Mulayam Singh Yadev, along with over a dozen Lok Dal workers were also arrested in Lucknow this morning. Our Kanpur correspondent says there has been no impact of the rasta roko at all in the city.

Congress-I Official Shot

BK280312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] The vice president of the Amritsar District Congress-I committee and sarpanch [village head] of Gopalpura village, Mr Sohan Lal Sharma, was shot dead by two unidentified extremists yesterday evening. Mr Sharma was waylaid while he was going to his village in his car. In another incident at (Kalakhurana), 18 km from Batala, a person and his wife were injured when they were shot at by three miscreants.

Five Killed in Incidents Near Afghan Border

HK280108 Hong Kong AFP in English 0018 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP) — A total of five people were killed in violent incidents in and near the Pakistani town of Parachinar, near the border with Afghanistan, correspondents in Peshawar said quoting official sources. Two women and three girls were injured when two Afghan helicopters attacked a village between Parachinar and the border Monday, the sources said. Five hours later, the helicopters returned to stage a 40-minute attack on the town itself, killing one person, injuring eight and causing serious damage to 18 targets.

In the ensuing chaos, a bomb exploded in the town, killing four Afghan refugees, the sources said. About 100 kms (62 miles) further South, at Miran Shah, another bomb attack at a market injured 35 people Monday, according to the correspondnets.

The Pakistani News Agency AFP reported the arrest at the border of two Afghans carrying 16 kilos (35 pounds) of explosives concealed in tea chests. The agency said they had been sent by the Afghan security services to carry out attacks on Pakistani territory.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency TASS reported that Afghan leader Babrak Karmal had told reporters in Kabul of a three-point agreement between his country and Pakistan.

Protest Lodged With DRA

BK281552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Two Afghan MI-24 helicopters, violating Pakistan's airspace at 1710 yesterday [1210 GMT on 27 January], intruded 10 miles into Pakistani territory.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning where a strong protest was lodged with him over these uprovoked attacks. The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked to inform his authorities that the entire responsibility for serious consequences will rest on Kabul if such attacks are not halted.

Romanian Deputy Premier Meets Junejo 27 Jan

BK271649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1600 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion M. Nicolae met Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with special emphasis on steps to increase economic cooperation between the two countries.

Nicolae delivered a message of best wishes from the Romanian prime minister to Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The prime minister asked Nicolae to convey his best wishes and thanks to the Romanian prime minister. He expressed the hope that joint ventures between Pakistan and Romania will be successful. Minister of State for Production Islamuddin Sheykh and the Romanian charge d'affaires were also present on this occasion.

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Nicolae and Federal Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq also exchanged views in Islamabad today on matters relating to an increase in economic cooperation between Pakistan and Romania. The Romanian deputy prime minister said there are adequate possibilities for increasing economic relations in various fields between the two countries.

The finance minister told the Romanian deputy prime minister that Pakistan is deeply interested in promoting economic cooperation with Romania. He identified concrete projects for bilateral cooperation.

The details of these projects will be reviewed before the forthcoming meeting of the joint ministerial commission to be held in Bucharest. He thanked Romania for its assistance to Pakistan in various fields.

JANG on Iranian President's Recent Visit

GF281448 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Jan 86 p 3

[Commentary by Ashraf Tariq: "Importance of Iranian President's Visit"]

[Excerpts] No doubt the recent visit to Pakistan by the president of our neighboring country, Iran, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, is a good omen for the people of both countries. President General Ziaul Haq has been wishing for the last year or so that the Iranian head of state would visit Pakistan so that relations between the two countries could be expanded; but coolness from the Iranian side would not let this happen. Basically, there were two reasons for this coolness: first, the Pakistan-U.S. friendship, and two, Pakistan's neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. However, it was surprising that despite these two hurdles, the president of Iran decided to visit Pakistan.

In 1979 the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a critical moment in terms of Pakistan's defense. Compared with a superpower, Pakistan is a small, poor country. Keeping in mind these three [as published] drawbacks, it was in Pakistan's interest to improve and strengthen its relations with the other superpower — the United States. Pakistan acted accordingly, but in doing so it maintain its sovereignty. Despite pressures from the United States, Pakistan did not allow military bases to be set up, contrary to what the Philippine Government had done. Moreover, Pakistan declined to participate in the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force plan.

In spite of all this, some extremists in Iran kept dubbing Pakistan as a lackey and hanger-on of the United States. The irony is that Iran for its part set up strong and deep relations with Syria and Libya, which are counted among the allies of the Soviet Union.

BANGLADESH

Malaysian Minister Comments on Cooperation, Trade

BK251624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The Malaysian minister for public enterprises, Mrs Aziz Rafidah, has reaffirmed the government's desire to widen cooperation and increase trade with Bangladesh. She was addressing a news conference in Dhaka this morning on the conclusion of her 6-day official visit to Bangladesh at the head of a 20-member trade delegation. She said there is wide scope for both countries to cooperate in joint purchase of raw materials and joint marketing of products. She expressed her country's willingness to import a number of products from Bangladesh, especially potatoes, fresh vegetables, maripe products, tea, and newsprint. Before leaving Dhaka, the Malaysian minister called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan.

PRC Minister, Delegation Conclude Visit 23 Jan

BK240204 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] The 10-member Chinese delegation led by the minister for chemical industry, Mr Qin Zhongla, left Dhaka yesterday after an 8-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr Qin, who led his country at the second session of the Bangladesh-China joint commission, also attended the inauguration of the Kalas urea fertilizer factory. He also held detailed discussions with a number of ministers to (?stabilize) and develop the existing economic relations between the two countries.

China has agreed to assist Bangladesh in the mining and exploration of coal deposits at (Boropokuria) in the northern parts of the country. It also agreed to consider (?Dhaka's) request for setting up of some new projects including a number of fertilizer plants and power distribution projects. The delegation visited Chittagong, Chandraghona and Kaftari.

SRI LANKA

Troops, Helicopters Repulse Tamil Attack

HK250600 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Colombo, Jan 25 (AFP) — Troops using mortars and air support repulsed an attack by militant Tamil separatists on an army camp in the northern Jaffna peninsula last night, security sources said today. The militants fired mortars and small arms at the camp in the village of Navatkuli about eight kilometres (five miles) from Jaffna town, the sources said.

Residents said that helicopters flying over the small village in support of the soldiers fired at the attackers. They said that casualties were likely as several houses were damaged by shell fire from the camp and some were set ablaze. Other sources said one person had been injured and taken to hospital. In Colombo, officials said they had no reports of helicopters firing at the village.

Police said that a police station in the Eastern Batticaloa District also came under mortar and automatic fire yesterday. They added that Wellawali police station was slightly damaged, but there were no casualties.

In Ampera District to the south, a suspected Tamil militant detained at an army camp was shot dead during an escape bid yesterday, security sources said. A magisterial inquiry into the death was to be held today, the sources added.

Terrorist Groups Reportedly Planning Joint Attacks

BK261131 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has stated that fair and practical measures should be taken to solve the ethnic problem while armed and military strength is used against terrorists. The minister said that those who say that they have a problem should bear in mind that a solution could be found only through negotiations and not through violent means.

The minister made the statement last night at the conclusion of the 115th mahapola at the Batemulla Maha Vidyalaya [secondary school] at Hadradiya. Speaking further, Mr Athulathmudali said that we should try to dispel the false fears of the people. The minister noted that the people of Jaffna had expressed opposition to a security zone around the Jaffna Fort. However, he pointed out that since the security zone was imposed, there had been no attacks on the force. He added that he was prepared to talk with the people of Jaffna to win them over.

Mr Athulathmudali, referring to the problem of stateless people, said that if the 94,000 Indians were not given citizenship, these people would be driven to terrorism.

Four terrorist groups under the ENLF [Eelam National Liberation Front] are now preparing for a joint attack on the security forces in the north, according to intelligence reports received in Colombo. This is the first time that the four terrorist groups are uniting to launch an attack.

National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali said that the government was fully prepared for any terrorist attack. What the government strategy was could not be disclosed for security reasons, he added.

The four groups preparing for the attacks are said to be EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. The PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] led by Uma Maheswaran, however, did not come under the ENLF umbrella.

The minister said that this was the first time four terrorist groups are proposing a united attack. That may perhaps be because the terrorist groups are now convinced of the increasing strength and competence of the security forces in combating any form of terrorist attack.

Draft Citizenship Bill Referred to Supreme Court

BK251134 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The president has referred the citizenship bill to the Supreme Court to determine whether its provisions are consistent with the Constitution. A 3-member bench comprising the chief justice, Mr S. Sharvananda, and justices Ranasinghe and L.H. de Alwis, will sit on Monday to determine the constitutionality of the bill. The bill is titled The Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons [word indistinct]. It is being referred to the Supreme Court under Article 122 of the Constitution which bestows the court with special constitutional jurisdiction in respect of a urgent bill.

The relevant article requires the court to make its determination within 24 hours or for such longer period not exceeding 3 days as the president may specify from the date of its assembling. The court is required to communicate its determination only to the president and to the speaker. Article 123 requires the court to state the reasons for its determination and, where a bill or any part thereof is inconsistent with the Constitution, to specify the provision of provisions with which the conflict occurrs.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party is challenging the bill as being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

Indian Official Comments on Citizenship Issue

BK261320 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, said that a critical and unjust assessment had been in the statement of the SLFP about the [words indistinct] cooperative efforts undertaken by the governments of India and Sri Lanka regarding the stateless persons. The high commissioner said the statement that the original Indo-Lankan agreement had been changed or violated by arrangements announced on 15 January is incorrect.

The high commissioner was replying to queries regarding a statement issued by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike recently. He said the Indian government's response to suggestions made by the Sri Lankan Government does not violate the 1964 and 1974 agreements in any manner in letter or in spirit. He said that neither Indian nor Sri Lankan citizenship was to be imposed on stateless persons in Sri Lanka. It was purely voluntary. The Government of India will be conferring Indian citizenship on Tamils of Indian origin on a voluntary basis and only those who have applied for it by October 1981 would get it.

The high commissioner remarked that he was not aware of illicit immigrants coming from India to Sri Lanka. India has no people to protect in Sri Lanka except Indian citizens and it is India's fervent hope that the Sri Lankan Government and its leaders will protect all its citizens.

Foreign Affairs Official on Relations With Israel

BK251009 Colombo SUN in English 17 Jan 86 p 1, 13

[By Zacki Jabbar]

[Text] Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tyronne Fernando on Wednesday dispelled fears that the presence of Israelis in Sri Lanka meant the government's foreign policy on West Asia had changed. Terrorism and the security situation in the country drove us to seek military assistance from the Israeli's. However, this was only a temporary measure the Deputy Minister assured.

Delivering a lecture on "Sri Lanka's foreign policy on West Asia with particular reference to Palestine," at Hotel Ranmuthu, Mr Fernando said as soon as the terrorist problem was solved the Israelis would leave the country.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he stressed that in the ongoing peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the latter remained the main concern of the Sri Lankan government. "We are a free country and have very cordial ties with all others. Maybe we are closer to some, more than others. However we should be watchful of our enemies as well as our friends," he said.

The Deputy Minister denied that the setting up of the Israeli interests section would eventually lead to full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The conflict between the Americans and Libyans had not changed the policy of our government in any way. The government did not intend to cow down to any superpower. The signing of the barter agreement with the Chinese Government in the face of American threats was ample proof of this, the Deputy Minister said.

U.S. 'Plot' Against Libya Condemned

LD251508 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here Saturday that the U.S. military exercise near Libyan territorial waters is a hostile action against Libya's sovereignty. The spokesman described the maneuver as a "plot aimed at disrupting security of a country (Libya) which is determined not to yield to aggression of the U.S. and the Zionist regime."

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the threats of the U.S. military forces against Libya and reiterates its solidarity with the Islamic Libya and its Muslim people, the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry said that the recent threats of the United States will make Libya and other Muslim revolutionary governments in the region more determined to fight imperialism and Zionism. The U.S. military exercise follows a scandalous failure of its sanctions against Libya, the spokesman concluded.

Military Parades Planned for 10-Day Dawn Ceremonies

LD271339 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — The commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rezai'e, in a statement issued here Monday [27 January], said that during the "ten-day dawn" ceremonies marking seventh anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, more than 220 divisions of the Basij (mobilisation) and IRGC will hold special marches in cities throughout the country.

The statement is issued following the recent statement of the Majlis Speaker and Special Representative of Imam Khomeyni to the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafanjani, that the revolution anniversary celebrations will be a time to show the combat power and readiness of the Iranian volunteer forces to the enemy. The statement called on all provincial IRGC commanders to take measures in this respect to disappoint the world oppressor further.

Oil Price Reduction Termed Anti-OPEC 'Conspiracies'

GF270912 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran's Stance Regarding the Recent Conspiracies Against OPEC"]

[Text] Following the hatching of the recent conspiracies by world oppression to dismantle OPEC through reducing oil prices, the under secretary of the Oil Ministry explained the Islamic Republic's stance with regard to this plot. In an interview with IRNA he referred to the objectives of the oppressive powers in bringing about a drop in oil prices.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran deems the policy of increasing production by the North Sea producers — Britain and Norway — as an instrument for imposing the will of the imperialist circles. Iran calls on all OPEC members to consider boycotting commercial dealings or imposing import restructions on goods manufactured by these two countries and to continue this boycott as long as the policy of reducing oil prices continues.

The extensive efforts of world oppression to reduce oil prices and dissolve OPEC -- which has become inevitabile due to the circumstances created by the official reduction of oil prices by Britain and Norway and the increase in production quotas by some other oil-producing countries such as the Baghdad ruling regime -- can only be interpreted as a warning to OPEC members, as stated by most experts. The trend of falling oil prices in the international market has almost reached a final phase in the plot to initiate a price war. In fact, it is of this sensitive situation that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly warned at OPEC sessions. The Islamic Republic of Iran stressed the need to stabilize oil prices at the 76th session of OPEC. The effects of exceeding the production ceiling stipulated by OPEC and the adoption of an erroneous policy for the sale of oil by most members, despite Iran's insistence on the need to preserve the unity and unanimity of OPEC, are now surfacing on the international oil market.

In its last sessions on 7 and 9 December, OPEC unexpectedly announced that it has the right to defend its production quota in the world market even at the expense of reducing its oil prices. The Islamic Republic of Iran considered this the beginning of a downward trend in oil prices. The Islamic Republic of Iran annnounced at the last OPEC conference that a reduction in oil prices is not the only way to defend OPEC's quota in the market and that there are other instruments to counteract a fall in oil prices. The Islamic Republic believes the import of goods from the oil-producing countries is a powerful lever which can be used to prevent the purchase of inexpensive oil by these countries. There is no doubt that even now we can halt the current trend from spreading by adopting a principled stance and revising our trade ties within the infrastructure of a boycott against the countries which are now pioneering the conspiracy against OPEC.

As it has stated repeatedly, the Islamic Republic of Iran will — with the collaboration of other progressive members of OPEC such as Libya and Algeria — firmly resist the reactionary policy within the organization and once again affirms its decision to abide by the quotas and prices specified by OPEC.

Tanzanian Energy Minister Arrives For Oil Talks

LD272105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Following the visit to Tanzania by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and within the context of the talks held, Tanzania's energy minister and a delegation arrived in Tehran this morning in order to carry out a series of talks on oil issues. He met and had talks with the oil minister this afternoon.

During the meeting the two sides exchanged views on oil studies, exploration, drilling, production and refining. It was decided that within Iran's economic and technical assistance to Third World countries, the granting of technical-economic facilities to Tanzania with the aim of utilizing that country's oil and gas resources should become the subject of fresh investigations and studies.

The Tanzanian Republic's gas and oil resources are still in the primary phases from the standpoint of exploration and production and hence the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance to that African country could bring about remarkable changes in Tanzania's economy.

Construction Jihad To Assist Tanzanian Development

LD270839 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry will put its experiences at the disposal of Tanzania to carry out its programs in agricultural and rural development, the ministry's deputy Rasoul Lahijanian said here Monday.

He said that Construction Jihad Ministry's cooperation with Tanzania, part of a letter of understanding signed between the two countries during the recent trip of President Khamene'i to that country, would be mainly focused on livestock breeding and medical services.

Lahijanian who was a member of the Iranian delegation which accompanied President Khamene'i in his tour of Asian and African countries, also added that while the delegation was in Pakistan talks were held between officials of the two countries for rural development and training of Jihad personnel. He said that the talks were held within the framework of economic cooperation of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Lahijanian noted that the delegation's trip to Asian and African countries had two objectives: to reiterate Iran's anti-apartheid stance and its constant fight against imperialism and also to discuss Iran's cooperation with those countries. To this end, he added, Iran and Tanzania signed a letter of understanding for agricultural and rural development, noting that it was Iran's duty to assist countries which were fighting for their independence.

He said that programs within the framework of this cooperation will be carried out by next spring and expressed hope that Iran's successful experiences would entail effective results in Tanzania and other African countries.

Gulf War Will Not Halt Aid to African Nations

LD262127 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri Sunday said that the Iraqi-imposed war would not prevent the Islamic Republic from assisting the African nations. Javad Mansur is currently in Freetown, Sierra Leone at the head of a delegation to participate in the inauguration ceremony of President Momoh. The deputy minister said that Iran is to establish an organization named "Support for Africa" in order to continue assistance to the oppressed African Continent.

He also thanked the Muslim people of Sierra Leone who called at the Iranian Embassy in Freetown requesting that they be dispatched to the battlefronts for fighting the Iraqi forces. Mansuri called on the African nations to defend their rights and support the Islamic Republic's stand vis-a-vis the aggressors.

Bulgarian Commercial Counselor on Trade Ties

LD251927 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — The commercial counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Ivan Nikolov said at a press interview here Saturday that the volume of trade exchanges between the Islamic Republic and Bulgaria have increased three-fold since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

He said the figure of bilateral trade in 1976-77 was about 80 million dollars compared with the present 320 million dollars. He further said that the volume of trade exchanges between the two sides is expected to rise to 500 million dollars in 1986. Mr. Nikolov said the third annual joint economic meeting will be held in Sofia soon.

Minister of Agriculture 'Ali 'Abbas Zali is the chairman of the Iranian commission and Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov heads the Bulgarian commission in the annual meetings.

On increased non-oil imports from Iran to his country, Nikolov said that contracts have been concluded with the Ministry of Heavy Industries, as a result of which Iran will export 500 Renault cars as well as 44 minibuses to Bulgaria. He added that his country also purchases concentrated zinc and copper, cotton as well as clothing, and textile materials from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nikolov said that in 1985, his country purchased 16 million dollars in non-oil goods from Iran which figure is expected to increase to 20 to 25 million dlrs by the end of 1986.

He said in December 1985 an important contract was signed between Iran and Bulgaria for manufacture of lift trucks in Tabriz machine building factory (in Iran's east Azarbayjan Province). He said according to this contract Bulgaria purchases 5,000 sets of counterweights for lift trucks, assembled in Tabriz factory.

Nikolov further said that according to another agreement signed between the two countries, Bulgaria will automate the painting line at Iran-Khodro car manufacturing factory, as well as some sections at Arak wagon manufacturing plant and piston producing factory of Tabriz. He added that his coutnry has also cooperated in technology transfer to Iran and continues its exports of cheese and processing equipments to the Islamic Republic.

Qatari Labor Minister on Expanding Relations

LD251923 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — In a meeting with the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Qatar, Baqir Sakha'i Saturday, Qatari minister of labour and social affairs 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari announced his country's preparedness to expand relations with Iran in all fields.

In response the Iranian Ambassador said that Iran is willing to expand its relations with Qatar. He also noted that the Islamic Republic's foreign policy is based on establishing and expanding relations with its neighbours.

AL-SHAHID Views Future of Saudi Regime

GF261735 Tehran AL-SHAHID in Arabic 25 Dec 85 p 21

[Unattributed article: "Washington Fears for the Future of Al Sa'ud"]

[Text] When one listens to the radio and television and reads the press in the Arabian Peninsula one imagines that all is well, that the Al Sa'ud regime is well, and that the people of the Arabian Peninsula thank God for the blessing bestowed on them by the ruling family.

However, the citizen in the Arabian Peninsula realizes that the media which the ruling and royal family has marshalled in the name of satan was created to polish the miserable image of the Saudi regime. The government of Al Sa'ud is founded on treason and conspiracy against the Arab and Muslim causes, and the use of brute force against the Islamic movement in the peninsula.

The Islamic movement is more resilient than the regime. In recent years the Muslim people in the Arabian Peninsula have begun to understand and feel an affinity with the Islamic movement, as they have realized the correctness of its goals and march, and the wisdom of its ideas and views. They have uncovered ideas that are disseminated by the Saudi regime and its institutions and the political line pursued by the regime with regard to the causes of the people of the Arabian Peninsula and Muslim peoples, and particularly the regime's stand on the liberation of Palestine and the war imposed on the Islamic Republic.

After raising the slogan of jihad for the liberation of Palestine, the ruling family turned 180 degrees and the Saudi ruler, Fahd, raised the slogan of "secure borders for Israel" in his Fahd peace plan — a plan that was a stab in the heart of the Palestinian cause.

With regard to the war, the Al Sa'ud regime does not disguise its support for the ruling Ba'th party of Iraq. The unjust participation in the war is contrary to the wishes of the people of the Arabian Peninsula, who from the very beginning have viewed the war as a strike by the oppressors to destroy the Islamic revolution in Iran which raised the banner of the Islamic message, and have viewed aggression against the Islamic Republic as aggression against Islam. Saudi participation in the war falls within the framework of aggression against Islam. The Islamic slogans raised by the Saudi rulers are intended to mislead and are only words with no action.

It is the Islamic awareness that has begun to spread among the society of the Arabian Peninsula that has prompted the foreign media to ask questions about the future of the Al Sa'ud regime in the peninsula. *THE NEW YORK TIMES* has referred to the decline of the Saudi regime and its loss of nerve because of its inability to weaken the Islamic movement. *THE NEW YORK TIMES* article mentioned the Organization of the Islamic Revolution in the Arabian Peninsula [Munadhdhamat al-Thawrah al-Islamiyah al-Jazirah al-'Arabiyah] which led the demonstrations in the eastern region in 1980. The Middle East Research Institute at Harvard University has published a study in which it warned the U.S. Government that the future of the regime in the Arabian Peninsula is grim. The study predicts that as a result of the internal divisions the regime will disintegrate within 10 years.

In the face of such political impotency the ruling family believes that arms deals are the best cure for its malaise. However, the ruling family does not understand at all the meaning of the Islamic awakening, for the Islamic awakening is not based on the number of planes and tanks but on blood, and blood always triumphs.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,363

LD271652 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27 Vian, Kordestan Province — 10 civilians were martyred and 63 wounded and elsewhere [as received] in the village of Robat near the border town of Sardasht (West Azarbayjan Province) 11 were martyred and another 14 wounded as Iraqi war planes pounded Marivan and Robat, at 12:30 hours and again at 12:40 hours local time (0900 and 09:10 hours GMT) Monday [27 January], a military communique reported here Monday.

The communique number 2363 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Wednesday says that Iraqi forces fired several "chemical shells" on Iranian positions in Eynkhosh operational region at 12:15 and again 18:05 hours local time (08:45 and 14:35 hours GMT) Sunday.

Iran's jet fighters bombed Iraq's "Rawanduz garrison" (northeast of Irbil) at 08:35 hours local time (05:05 hours GMT) Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces, the Iranian jet fighters all returned to their bases safely.

The Joint Staff communique says that at least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump together with several gun emplacements of enemy troops were destroyed in the western fronts Sunday as their positions were pounded by Iranian forces.

The command says that Iranian Muslim combatants ambushed Iraqi patrols in Chananeh Sunday and captured two Iraqi patrolmen forcing the others to flee and inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

The communique says that Iranian artillery fire checked transport of tanks and motorized units of Iraqi forces elsewhere in Nahre-Anbar and Chazzabeh regions Sunday halting enemy movements and inflicting considerable damage on enemy troops. Meanwhile, Iraqi forces continued shelling the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province Sunday.

Casualties From Iraqi Bombing

LD272039 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 27, IRNA — According to latest reports on an Iraqi aerial [as received] raid on the village of Robat near

Sardasht border town, Monday noon, the casualty figure has risen to 14 martyrs among them two students, and 19 wounded.

On Monday Iraqi war planes bombarded the city of Marivan, in Kordestan Province martyring 10 civilians and wounding another 63. Many houses and shops in the city were badly damaged.

Spokesman Denies Village Attacked

GF250532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters has denied enemy accusations that Iranian planes attacked (Dirluk) village in Al-'Amadiyah District in Iraq. In an interview with IRNA, the spokesman for the War Information Headquarters stated: Following the successful attack by the air force of the Islamic Republic's army against Dirluk garrison and the enemy forces' centers southeast of Al-'Amadiyah, the Iraqi regime claimed that during this attack Dirluk village was a target. While denying this accusation by the Iraqi regime, he emphasized that Iraq's motive for such accusations is to justify their future aggression.

Planes Attack Iraqi Garrison

LD261043 Tehran IRNA in English 1034 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26. IRNA — Iran's fighter bombers attacked 'Kulak' garrison (36.36 degrees north and 44.19 degrees east) in west of Rawanduz, Iraq, at 11:09 a.m. (07:39 GMT) Sunday. The Joint Staff headquarters, announcing this in its 2362d communique Sunday, added that the Iranian fighter bombers returned to their bases safely after successfully carrying out their mission.

Clandestine Radio Reports Arms Shipment From Libya

GF271753 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] The correspondent for the Voice of the Liberation of Iran in the southern ports of our country informed us yesterday that last Saturday a Polish ship coming to Iran from Libya and containing 133 large boxes docked and emptied its load at Bandar 'Abbas.

There are no clear indications of the contents of the boxes but it is being said it is very probable that these boxes carry arms and ammunition because military officials were present in Bandar 'Abbas to unload the shipment.